The
University of California
Library

H. Morse Stephens

University of California

TRIPOLI.

FIRST WAR WITH THE UNITED STATES.

INNER HISTORY.

LETTER BOOK

BY

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART,

FIRST CONSUL TO TRIPOLI,

AND

LAST LETTERS FROM TUNIS,

COMPILED BY HIS DAUGHTER

J. B. CATHCART NEWKIRK, D. A. R.

HERALD PRINT, LaPorte, Ind.

F325
C3

Copyrighted, Aug. 15th, 1901,
by
Mrs. J. B. Newkirk.

HENRY MORSE STEPHENS

UNIV. OF CALIFORNIA

James Leander Cathcart.

Jane B. Cathcart.

J. B. Cathcart Newkirk, D. A. R.

Eliza Woodside Hutton.

508968

UNIV. OF
CALIFORNIA

TO SENATOR BALDWIN.

The following is a copy of a note from President Jefferson to the Senate referred to in the preceding letter.

"I received a letter from you the other day on the subject of Cathcart, who was appointed by Mr. Adams and confirmed by the Senate as consul to Tripoli. He is personally known to me and pretty well known; he is the honestest and ablest consul we have with the Barbary powers; a man of sound judgment and fearless. He married the daughter of a very respectable family in Philadelphia. His public correspondence is published and shows his understanding. A vessel being on her departure to the Mediterranean, the Enterprise, Capt. Sterrett, it presses on us to send his commission by her, and makes it desirable that the Senate should act immediately."

TH. JEFFERSON.

CONTENTS.

LETTERS.	PAGE.
Joel Barlow to Bryan McDonogh	23
Lord Nelson to Bashaw of Tripoli	41
Circular	56
Circular to Agents and Consuls	197, 228, 274
French Letter	321
Thos. Jefferson's Letter	353
From James Leander Cathcart to Bashaw of Tripoli	7
Richard O'Brien, Algiers	21
Hon. Timothy Pickering	23
Richard O'Brien, Algiers	26
William Eaton	30, 31
Richard O'Brien, Algiers	33, 35
William Eaton	44
Richard O'Brien	45
Hon. Timothy Pickering	51
Robert Montgomery	56
William Eaton	57, 58, 60
Hon. Timothy Pickering	66
Richard O'Brien	68
William Eaton	71, 72, 74
Hon. William Smith	75
Thomas Bulkly	78
Thomas Appleton	79
Conrad F. Wagner	80
William Eaton	80
Richard O'Brien	83

William Eaton.....87, 91, 98
David Humphreys 102
Timothy Pickering.....108, 109, 114
William Smith 115
Thomas Bulkly 116
Richard O'Brien 117
William Eaton.....118, 119, 121, 124
Hon. Timothy Pickering.....130
Thomas Appleton..... 131
Conrad F. Wagner.....132
Hon. Timothy Pickering.....132, 134
Richard O'Brien 143
William Eaton 144
Hon. Timothy Pickering.....145, 152, 154, 157
William Eaton 157
Richard O'Brien 158
Hon. Timothy Pickering 160
Thomas Appleton 165
William Eaton 166
Richard O'Brien..... 170
William Eaton 172
Richard O'Brien 173
Hon. Timothy Pickering.....173, 174
William Smith 177
William Eaton 178
Richard O'Brien 179
Charles Lee 182
Richard O'Brien 188
William Eaton 189
Richard O'Brien 190
Charles Lee 191
Hon. Thomas Appleton.....199
Richard O'Brien 200
William Eaton.....207, 209
Richard O'Brien 210

Chas. Tulin, Tunis....213
Thomas Appleton....213
Conrad F. Wagner, Triest....214
William Eaton....215
William Smith, Lisbon....220
William Eaton....223, 224
Richard O'Brien....225, 227
William Eaton....228
John Marshall....230
Richard O'Brien....241
Charles Tulin....243
Bryan McDonogh....244
Thomas Appleton....244
William Smith....245
William Eaton....249
Richard O'Brien....251, 155, 257
John Marshall....257
William Eaton....258
Mr. Nisson....261
Jusif Bashaw....264
O'Brien & Eaton....266
Mr. Nisson....275
William Eaton....276
O'Brien & Eaton....276
John Marshall....279
O'Brien & Eaton....294
Richard O'Brien....294
William Eaton....297
John Marshall....298
W. England....300
William Eaton....301
Samuel Williams....303
W. England....303
William Eaton....305
Obrien and Eaton....306

Hon. John Marshall....307
O'Brien and Eaton....310
Willam Eaton....313
W. England....313
O'Brien and Eaton....314
From Hon. William Eaton to
Secretary of State....319, 324
Richard Dale....329
Hon. James Madison....333, 343, 345
Copenhagen Letter....348
Rufus King....349
Secretary of State....349
Capt. Daniel McNiel....350
Capt. Joseph Bounds....351
James Leander Cathcart....352

JOURNAL

OF OUR

NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE REGENCY OF TRIPOLI IN BARBARY, AS TRANSMITTED TO THE HON. TIMOTHY PICKERING, SECRETARY OF STATE, BY JAMES LEANDER CATHCART, COMMENCING APRIL 5TH, 1799.

ALGIERS, Feb. 28, 1799.— I received the Dey of Algiers' letter to the Bashaw of Tripoli from David Bacri, the 29th, and a letter from the said person to Leon Farfara, he being, as they say, a man of great influence with the Bashaw of Tripoli, and presents as per my receipts of this date.

TUNIS, Monday, 18th.—I received a packet from Mr. Famin which was left here by Mr. Ingraham, directed to Capt. O'Brien, copies of which I have forwarded in dispatch number one, to the Secretary of State. During my stay at Tunis I procured a letter from the Bey of Tunis to the Bashaw of Tripoli, which informed him that the Regencies of Algiers and Tunis had concluded their affairs amicably with the United States of America, and hoped the Bashaw of Tripoli would do the same, it being more to the interests of the Barbary States in general, in the present state of affairs, to be at peace with the Americans than at war; the letter from the Dey of Algiers was only complimentary. I likewise received a letter from the vikil of Algiers for the Bashaw and a packet for the Tripoline ambassador with a chest and sundry other articles for him, which were sent on board the Sophia with a Tripoline sailor passenger.

April 1st I left Tunis and went on board the Sophia, the wind being contrary we did not sail until the next morning. Friday the 5th at 3 p. m. came to an anchor in the Bay of Tripoli with an Algerian jack at the foretop gallant masthead and our own colors flying aft. The captain of the port's boat came on board and asked from whence we came, and what was our business. We informed him that we had the American consul on board, and letters from the President of the United States of America, the Dey of Algiers and Bey of Tunis, for his excellency, the Bashaw of Tripoli. At 3:30 p.m. Mr. Bryan McDonogh came on board in a boat with American colors flying. I gave him all the letters I had on board, he being charged with British, Swedish and American affairs, the consuls of said nations being absent on business. He informed me that it was customary to inform the Bashaw when any public agent arrived, in order that we might be informed when his excellency would be at leisure to receive us, that he would perform this ceremony and come on board again as soon as possible. At 25 minutes before 6 Mr. McDonogh came on board with a chaoux and informed me that he was very sorry to bring such bad news, as the Bashaw had ordered him to inform me that he would not receive me as consul for the United States of America, as I had not brought the stores and brig promised by Capt. O'Brien two years ago, when our peace was concluded here; that the Americans had not fulfilled their promises to him, and that consequently, he was under no obligations to fulfill his promises to them; that he wished me to send the letters from the Dey of Algiers and the Bey of Tunis to him; that he would answer them immediately and that we might then depart when we pleased; that he would give us forty days from the time of our departure before he would order his cruisers to capture American vessels; that he would then order the American flag to be hauled down and openly declare war against the United States of America, and by that act let the world see

that the Bashaw of Tripoli was an independent Prince, and would be respected as such in spite of Algiers, Tunis, or even the Grand Signore. I gave the letters from the Dey of Algiers and the Bey of Tunis to the chaoux and requested him to inform the Bashaw that I had a letter from the President of the United States of America to him, but that I could not trust it to any person; ie. being ordered to deliver it myself. I therefore requested his excellency to give me permission to land and to let me hear his determination from his own mouth; that I never put implicit faith in messages. Mr. McDonogh informed me that I might depend that the Bashaw would insist on having the brig, as Capt. O'Brien absolutely promised her to him in the presence of Mr. de Souza, Signore Farfara and others, and declared that he heard them tell Ingraham so repeatedly. I informed him that I had never heard a word of any such promise, and that I was prepared to meet the Bashaw's demands for the stores by paying him an equivalent in cash, but to give him the brig was out of the question entirely. At 7 p. m. the chaoux came on board and informed me that the Bashaw would be glad to see me in the morning two hours after daylight. I requested him to inform the Bashaw that I would come on shore when the fortifications saluted the brig as customary. He said there would be no difficulty about that ceremony, provided we would return the salute, I told him the Bashaw might depend we would. He then said the Bashaw requested we would send him the letters we had on board from the vikil at Tunis, with the chest, and other articles which were sent for him, as the passengers we had brought with us had informed him such things were on board. I accordingly requested Capt. Geddes to let him have the chest, promising to send the rest of the things on shore in the morning. I likewise gave him five letters from different people in Tunis, directed to the Bashaw.

Saturday 6th, we having waited 'till 8 o'clock and no salute being fired from the fortifications, Capt. Geddes and

myself went on shore and were stopped at the Mold-head by the Rais, or Minister of Marine, who in a very impolite manner sent to inform us that the Bashaw had ordered that we should not be permitted to land, and that we must go on board again and remain until the English Doctor should come on board for us as the Bashaw was asleep and could not be disturbed. At 10 a. m. Mr. McDonogh came on board and informed me what was contained in his declaration which was forwarded in the original dispatch, inclosure number one, and is as follows:

TRIPOLI, April 6, 1799.

Sir: His excellency, the Bashaw of this Regency, sent for me this morning as charge-des-affaires of the United States, and requested that I would go on board and inform Consul Cathcart that he would not receive him as consul from the United States until every thing that was promised by the American agent at the conclusion of the peace was forthcoming. I accordingly went on board and communicated his excellency's demand to Consul Cathcart and we agreed to go on shore that Mr. Cathcart might hear in person what his excellency's demand was. On our landing at the marine there was a message sent to me from the castle not to bring Mr. Cathcart, but to come myself. I accordingly waited on his excellency who desired I would accompany the Rais of the Marine to Consul Cathcart, who would deliver his ultimate determination to the American consul respecting the difference between him and the United States. The message from his excellency which was delivered by the Rais of the Marine to Consul Cathcart in my presence was to the following purport, viz.: "That if Consul Cathcart did not promise the Bashaw the brig, or $50,000 in lieu thereof, and the stores as stipulated in the treaty and the consular presents that he would not receive Consul Cathcart from the United States but would declare war against the Americans in forty days from this date.

Given under my hand on board the brig Sophia, Tripoli harbor.

B. McDONOGH.

N. B. This declaration was given to me in writing by Mr. McDonogh, after he returned on board the Sophia, and after my conversation with the Rais of the Marine.

I expressed a desire to see the Bashaw, but he said he knew it would be impossible unless I promised to give his excellency the brig. I informed him that it was impossible; that I could do no such thing even should war be the consequence. Mr. McDonogh said that I might come on shore and speak to the Rais of the Marine. I embraced the offer and was received by him with a great deal of hauteur, and asked where the stores were that had been promised to the Bashaw two years ago. I informed him that they were shipped on board a vessel which had sailed from the United States 18 days before we sailed; that I had reason to suppose that she was either lost or taken by the French, and that the stores for Tunis were likewise on board of her. The Bey of Tunis had politely promised to wait nine or ten months longer for them, on being informed by our consul of the misfortune. "Yes," said the Rais, "and on your giving him $20,000 or $30,000 for his condescension." I declared that he had never hinted to us that he wished us to give him one dollar, and that I really believed that had we offered him a pecuniary reward he would have been highly affronted, as he considered our acknowledgment quite sufficient, more especially as we were now engaged in the same cause —a war against the French, and added I hope the Bashaw of Tripoli would at least act with the same politeness. The Rais laughed and said "The Bey of Tunis was the first Moor that ever he had heard of that would be offended at a Christian offering him money," and he added, "I suppose your friend, the Dey of Algiers, would likewise be affronted at your offering him money; but I was in Algiers when a frigate arrived from America, of 36 guns, loaded with guns

and warlike stores, and the Dey so far from not receiving her seemed very well pleased." I informed him the frigate was sent in lieu of cash for the redemption of our captives who had been redeemed upon credit above a year before. "Don't say any more," interrupted the Rais, "I know as well the terms of your peace with Algiers as you do yourself; I was in Algiers some months and if the Americans have friends there so has the Bashaw of Tripoli. Have you any more proposals to make to the Bashaw?" I replied none whatever. The Rais then insisted to know what the consular present consisted of. I informed him of about two-thirds of them and Mr. McDonogh took a note of them and carried it to the Bashaw. During their stay I was kept a prisoner in the Rais of the Marines' apartment at the Moldhead. In half an hour the Rais returned from the castle with Mr. McDonogh, and informed me of the Bashaw's terms, which were verbatim what Mr. McDonogh had informed me in the morning. The Rais added that "I had received instructions from that lying dog, O'Brien," who had informed him, when he was at Algiers, that he was consul for Tunis and Tripoli as well as for Algiers, and that as the Bashaw of Tripoli and Bey of Tunis were dependent upon Algiers so were the consuls there dependent upon him, that they could do nothing without him." I told him that I could not believe him that O'Brien was so weak as to have said any such thing to him, and wished him good morning. "What answer shall I give the Bashaw" added he. I said tell him that his proposals are beyond all bounds, that I imagine that he does not wish to be at peace with the United States. I suppose he thinks that we have some rich ships in the Mediterranean, but you may inform him that in consequence of the war with France that our ships are too well armed for any of his cruisers to be able to take them, and that I am very sorry that by his making such exorbitant demands from us that he will oblige us to turn the very arms against him which are now turned against our com-

mon enemy, the French. "Well," said the Rais, "I am ordered by the Bashaw to inform you that you may wait for the answers to the Dey of Algiers letters, if you think proper, if not you may let it alone; that he is a free and independent Prince, that he can not be intimidated by Algiers, Tunis, or even the Grand Signore; that if we wanted to be at peace with him we must pay him for it; that he commanded in his kingdom as well as the Dey of Algiers does in his." While on shore I sent a man, privately, to Farfara to inform him I had letters of importance for him from the Bacries and Bushnacs at Algiers. He sent word that he requested me to send them by Mr. McDonogh and to be cautious and to let no man see them, and begged for God's sake that I would not mention his name, as it would be ruinous to him as well as detrimental to the affairs of the United States. I requested Mr. McDonogh to come on board and dine with me, when I wrote the following letter which McDonogh very politely promised to explain to the Bashaw. I likewise gave him the letter from the President of the United States to the Bashaw, which he promised to present at the same time.

To his Excellency, the Bashaw of Tripoli.

Most Illustrious Prince:—Being informed by your Rais of the Marine and Mr. McDonogh charge-des-affares, that your excellency would not receive me as consul from the United States of America, unless I would promise that the United States would fulfill the promise made by their agent, Richard O'Brien, now beg leave to inform your excellency that the Government of the United States was never acquainted that any promise of the brig had ever been made, and therefore, I have received no orders relative to her; that the stores which were stipulated by treaty, were shipped from the United States on board the ship Hero, which we

fear is either lost or taken by the French; that in lieu thereof I am authorized to pay his excellency, the Bashaw, an equivalent in cash according to a just valuation to be made by impartial gentlemen, or if the Bashaw should wish to have the stores I promise that I will deliver them in four months from this day. As the United States of America wishes nothing more than to continue the peace and harmony which has so happily subsisted between the two nations, I will take it upon myself to promise his excellency, the Bashaw, the brig Sophia in lieu of the stores, and to deliver her to him in nine months from this date, to be received by him in full of all demands from the United States of America for ever, and on my being received as consul of the United States will deliver a handsome consular present to his excellency and his chief officers. By the letter from the President of the United States to his excellency, the Bashaw, which I now send by Mr. McDonogh, you will be informed of my rank and accordingly give me credence, and give me leave to observe that if any misunderstanding exists between the former agents of the United States and your excellency, it can not be deemed a sufficient cause for your excellency to declare war against a nation that never was at war with you, and who has sent an agent the vast distance of 6,000 miles to endeavor to cultivate peace and harmony between our two nations respectively, and that without your excellency ever giving him an audience; this, I believe, has been unprecedented in the annals of Barbary. Should your excellency not think proper to agree to the above terms, you will please to write to the President of the United States your determination, which shall be dispatched in the brig to America immediately, and if you do not think proper to receive me, I will remain in Tunis until an answer comes from the United States of America, during which interval of time your excellency, it is hoped, will suspend any declaration of hostility against the

United States. I remain most Illustrious Prince your Excellency's most obedient servant,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART,
Consul and Agent for the U. S. A. to Tripoli in Barbary.

United States Brig Sophia,
Bay of Tripoli, April 6, 1799.

P. S.—Should the above terms which are favorable to his excellency, the Bashaw of Tripoli, not be agreed to the consul of the United States would be happy to receive his excellency, the Bashaw's answer to the letter from the President of the United States, explaining to him his reasons for not receiving the said consul of the United States and his ultimate determination; he would likewise be happy to receive his answer to the letters from the Dey of Algiers and Bey of Tunis, which he pledges himself to forward immediately. The brig Sophia will sail tomorrow at 12 o'clock for Tunis, if his excellency does not wish to detain her longer, in such a case a few hours will make no great difference.

The Most Illustrious and Honorable, the Bashaw of Tripoli; whom God preserve.

I requested Capt. Penrose to go on shore with Mr. McDonogh and wait his answer—the Bashaw was out on horseback viewing his fortifications. Mr. McDonogh informed Capt. Penrose that he had delivered the letters that I had given him for Farfara, and promised that he would come on board in the morning.

Sunday, the 7th at Meridian, I received a note from Mr. McDonogh requesting me to come on shore, as he had obtained permission for me to receive an audience at 1 p. m.

I waited on the Bashaw in company with Mr. McDonogh, where I repeated nearly to the same purport as I did before to the Rais of the Marine, and tried every means to persuade him to listen to reason. The whole bone of contention was the brig which I refused him without hesitation. He was very much enraged with Capt. O'Brien and made use of every invective and terms of reproach and indignity he could think of. He then swore by God and his Prophet that O'Brien had promised him the brig, and had it not been for that promise he would not have made peace with the United States; that he was determined to have her or her equivalent in cash, that O'Brien had reported that he was dependent on the Algerines, that he would now let the world see that he was not, that O'Brien would not be always at Algiers, that all his cruisers had orders to bring him to Tripoli, if ever they found him on board any neutral vessel, and again swore that if ever he was found he would hang him like a dog on the vessel that brought him in. After an hour bravado and huckstering he told me that his last terms were, the brig to be delivered to him immediately or $18,000 to be delivered to him on the spot; for the stores which you suppose lost or taken, $25,000, payable in a few weeks, the two items $43,000, and a consular present equal to the Danes and Swedes. I told his excellency that I imagined he did not wish to continue the peace, that his demand was as unjust as it was exorbitant and that I could not treat with him until he was in a better humor—I then wished him a good day. He said he would give me twenty-four hours to think of it, and that from the morning of the next day the term of forty days should commence before he would begin hostilities against the United States of America. This day received the letter from Farfara informing me that he was sorry he could not assist me. Forwarded in the original dispatch inclosure number two and is as follows:

[Copy of a letter from Sig. Leon Farfara.]

Signore Console: Mi dispiace che a causadella mia malattia non polei servivi nelli Vostri affari con il S E il Bassa, motto pin perche S E il Bassa, pare che non avesse piacere che co trattasse questo affare, non avendomic eglo fatto verum cenno, percio non posso embaraszme ne esservi utile, al contrario il Sig're McDonogh essendo persona ben vista, eche gode de tutta la benevolensa di S E il Bassa, egli postra giovarvi motis simo, onde procurate di passare col medemo buona inteligen e sono persuazo che fara il suo possible perche tutto vadi bene. In qualunque che fara il suo possibile perche tutti vadi contentrare S E il Bassa, e agguistrare le vertenze che vi sono, sapendo voi molto bene quanto sono grave le consequense di una rottura di Pace. Vi accludo Ili risposta per il Signor Bacri ese in tutto altro vaglio a serviroi sons frontissimo e angurandoir felice sucesso mia dichiara.

De V S Illmo Vmo Dmo Servo,

LEON FARFARA.

Tripoli de Bara 7th of April 1799.

April 8th, 1799.—I requested Mr. McDonogh to carry the following letter to the Bashaw and explain to him its contents which he accordingly did, and in return brought a note in Arabic which I sent to Sig. Farfara to translate—forwarded the translation in the original dispatch.

His Excellency the Bashaw of Tripoli.

Sir:—I having verbally communicated to your excellency my reasons for not complying with your demands upon the United States of America, a repetition of which now would be unnecessary, I therefore beg leave to inform you that I

have deliberated on the nature of the promise you say Capt. O'Brien made you of the brig Sophia, and having taken the advice of Capt. Geddes who now commands her, I now promise your excellency that said brig shall be delivered to you in nine months from the time of her departure from this port, the dangers of the seas and enemies excepted; and that the stores that are stipulated by treaty shall be brought forward at the same time; or if your excellency would prefer the value of said stores in cash, I will give your excellency $5,000 in lieu thereof. This day, inclosed, I send your excellency a valuation of the stores by Mr. McDonogh, which you may depend is just and equitable, he having no interest in befriending one party more than the other. Should your excellency accept of the above terms in full of all demands from the United States, I will then deliver your excellency the consular presents which I informed you I had on board; if not you will be pleased to answer the letters to his excellency, the President of the United States, the Dey of Algiers and the Bey of Tunis, and if you do not wish that I should remain here I will proceed to Tunis and send the brig to America with your answer to the President's letter, and until her return it is hardly probable that your excellency will commence hostilities against the United States when you recollect that you have already received from them to the value of $60,000 in cash and presents, and that their agent now offers to remain responsible for the rest of Mr. O'Brien's stipulations and even more, as your excellency well knows, that the Sophia when here before was not armed nor sheathed; she now mounts 12 guns and 2 swivels, six of which are iron the rest brass, she is likewise lately sheathed and is every way completely fitted for a cruise. This is a very advantageous offer for your excellency and will serve to convince you how much the United States wishes to continue the harmony which has subsisted from the conclusion of the treaty between the two nations, and which as an individual you may depend I shall take every

means to cultivate, consistent with the honor and interest of the nation I represent. I am with respect your excellency's most obedient servant,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

Tripoli, April 8th, 1799.

Copy of inclosure number three translated from the Arabic by Farfara.

Se importo del Brich.....Duri. 18,000
Simile per il Regals..... 25,000

Duri. 43,000

Dere pagari di questa somma 13,000 frontamente e li restanti 30,000 li diamo il rispero de mesi da contare dalla data della presente. Parsato il ditto termine e non pertanda la suddetta somma sara zotta la Pace, e rolendo partise il Console potra partire ma si oesta sara schi vo, non avenda noi accordata del periods al primo Incaricato, e accordato al persente console il termine di sei pia cere il suo desiderio. Mese, che per riguardo del Doctore Inglese per compiacere il suo desiderio.

The above proposal I instantly rejected and returned to the Bashaw by the Doctor with the contempt such an unreasonable demand merited.

I then wrote a short statement of our affairs to Capt. Geddes, requesting his advice on the subject before I would come to a conclusion. The Doctor informed Capt. Geddes that the Bashaw desired to see him alone in the evening. I advised him to go by all means, but to be very circumspect in his answers to the Bashaw. He went about 4 o'clock, and after a great deal of invective against O'Brien and other frivolous questions of which Capt. Geddes will inform you.

The Bashaw informed Capt. Geddes that if we would promise him the brig and the stores stipulated by treaty in a reasonable time, and give him $13,000 for the detention of

said vessel and stores, he would be content. Capt. Geddes informed him that he had nothing to do with the negotiation, that if he thought proper he might apply to me, but that he could tell him before hand that I was limited by my instructions and that I dare not advance one dollar more than I was ordered. "Well," said the Bashaw, "I have ordered the answers to be written to the Dey of Algiers, Bey of Tunis and President of America's letters, and they shall be sent to him in the morning when he may go about his business." In the evening the Rais came to me with two letters from the Bashaw, one for the Dey of Algiers and the other for the Bey of Tunis. I asked him for the answer to the President's letter; he said it was not ready but that I should have it in the morning, and asked me what I should inform the Bashaw. I told him he might say that I was sorry our negotiation was at an end, as his excellency's terms were so unreasonable that to talk any more on the subject would only be wasting time. For further particulars I refer to Mr. McDonogh's declaration and advice. It is something remarkable that the letters which I received were sealed in three different places, so that it was impossible to open them—this is contrary to the custom of Mussulmen who always send their letters open to each other.

Tripoli, April 8th, 1799.—This evening about 7 o'clock the Rais of the Marine came to me with two letters from his excellency one of which was for the Dey of Algiers and the other for the Bey of Tunis, and desired I would inform Consul Cathcart if the wind was fair he must sail tomorrow morning, if not he might stay there four days longer. As he was going away he requested to see me in the next room, where he informed me, as a friend to the Americans, that if Consul Cathcart went away without complying with the Bashaw's demand, that it would be attended with the most serious consequences to the United States, and that he was of the opinion that if the brig sailed in enmity with the

Bashaw, $100,000 would not be sufficient to renew the peace of Tripoli.

Given under my hand as above dated.

B. McDONOGH.

Mr. McDonogh's advice to Consul Cathcart respecting the conversation he had with the Rais of the Marine in the presence of Mr. Cathcart, that if Consul Cathcart could possibly accommodate matters with his excellency without his leaving Tripoli, that he had not the smallest doubt but his conduct would meet with the approbation of the government of the United States, as in case hostilities commenced the taking of one American vessel would be a much greater loss than four times the sum demanded by the Bashaw. The reason of Mr. McDonogh's advising Consul Cathcart to the above, is that in the course of the two last years the Swedes and Danes paid to his excellency $75,000 each besides presents to the amount of $20,000 more. Lately his excellency has made a fresh demand on the Swedes of $32,000 that was taken from Tripoline merchants under Swedish colors by the Portuguese, and which obliged the Swedish consul to embark, a few days ago, to Europe to get this money to reimburse his excellency's subjects.

Given under my hand at Tripoli in Barbary this 9th day of April, 1799 B. McDONOGH.

Tuesday, 9th April, 1799.—Signore Farfara's brother came to me this morning and informed me that the Bashaw had sent for the governor of the Jews, and asked him if the American consul had been at Farfara's house, or if Farfara had visited him. The governor said that he was certain that we had not seen each other. "Take care that they do not" said the Bashaw, "for if they do I know how to dispose of both of you, and Farfara." The Rais of the Marine said he had placed spies on both our actions, and if we

visited each other he would report us to his excellency, the Bashaw. The whole of this day we waited for the letter for the President of the United States. Capt. Geddes sent me his answer to mine of yesterday evening.

James Leander Cathcart, Esq.

Sir:—In yours of last evening you wished to know my sentiments respecting the demand made by the Bashaw on the United States. From the statement you were so good to give me, it appears that the vessel and stores which you have power to promise will amount, with charges, to $41,000; that the Bashaw demands something more—perhaps will take something less. Now, sir, it is my opinion that if perfect confidence could be placed, the giving him the whole sum would be advisable if no abatement would be made, but knowing his character, if you come forward with that sum may it not give a spur to his avarice to demand more? Would it not, sir, be better to reduce the sum in cash and engage to give him the brig and stores which were before promised him, and the vessel which must come to Tunis can also bring them here and take the people back? Respecting the vessel for Tunis I can not say any thing on that subject, but since you were so polite as to ask my opinion I must say that a sacrifice can not be avoided, and should you, sir, leave this port without concluding with the Bashaw, the sums and property given at Algiers and Tunis are thrown away, our commerce in these seas—just become an object—is lost, for you well know, sir, the aversion our seamen have to slavery.

Wishing you a happy conclusion of this disagreeable business I am

Respectfully yours,

HENRY GEDDES.

Tripoli, April 9, 1799.

Captain Geddes and myself this day circulated a report that the Americans had sent a number of ships of war into the Mediterranean to protect their commerce from the depredations of the French, that they were to rendezvous at Gibraltar and Palmero to act in conjunction with the British; we likewise reported that the brig would immediately proceed to Malta on business of the United States. The reason we propagated this story was because the Tripolitans had now five cruisers at sea, and they would naturally suppose that we would give information to the Portuguese squadron that acts in conjunction with Admiral Nelson. Finding it necessary to come to some resolution directly, and not having it in my power to ask the opinion of our consul general at Algiers, I wrote a note to Capt. Geddes on that subject and received his answer contained in number six of the original inclosures, and is as follows:

James Leander Cathcart.

Sir:—In answer to yours of this evening permit me to refer you to mine of this morning as to correspondence with the consul general, at Algiers, and receiving his sentiments on the present business appears to me impossible. The Bashaw must have an answer, and from what I have heard him say of Mr. O'Brien I can not think him a proper person to be introduced into the business. It appears to me that something must be done immediately, and I have no doubt that the government under whom you serve will hold you justifiable in concluding a business of such importance, when it is impossible for you to receive the counsel of the consul general as the case is at present. I am,

Respectfully yours,

HENRY GEDDES.

Tuesday evening.

At 9 p. m. the Rais of the Marine came fom the Bashaw with a letter sealed up for the President of the United States. I asked him in what language it was written. He said in Italian. I asked him for a copy of it. He said the Bashaw never gave copies of his letters to any one, the President of the United States was the only person he wanted to know what was contained in the letter. Mr. McDonogh said he would go by himself to the palace and hear what the Bashaw had to say, and at the same time inform his excellency that we would come and take leave of him in the morning. I authorized Mr. McDonogh to offer the Bashaw, in lieu of the stores and brig, $18,000, in full of all demands from the United States; this was done and refused by his excellency; but he said if we would agree to give him the brig in nine months from her departure, and $10,000 on the spot in lieu of the stores, and doceur for his condescension for waiting so long for them he would be content. Mr. McDonogh informed his excellency that he would try to persuade the consul but that he was afraid that the consul would not consent to his proposal.

Wednesday, April 10th.—Mr. McDonogh went to the palace with my answer to the Bashaw. I advised him to try to persuade the Bashaw to accept cash in lieu of the brig, my reason for so doing was because I am convinced that if we give a vessel of war to the Bashaw of Tripoli, we would inevitably be obliged to give one to the Bey of Tunis.

At 10 a. m. Mr. McDonogh came from the palace and gave us joy, saying he had agreed in the name of the consul of the United States on the following terms:

That the consul of the United States should cause to be paid to the Bashaw of Tripoli $10,000 immediately, in lieu of the stores and in consideration of their detention and non-arrival with the consul, that he should pay $8,000 in lieu; that the said sum of $18,000 should be considered in full of all demands from the United States of America, the consular

present excepted. I agreed to the above immediately; and I assure you, sir, the United States are much indebted to Mr. McDonogh for his exertions, as Capt. Geddes will tell you on his arrival in America. At 5 p. m. I went to the palace with the consular present and delivered it to the Bashaw according to his request. I now saw Mr. Farfara for the first time. While we were in the palace the flag of the United States was saluted with 21 guns, and the Bashaw ordered all his colors to be hoisted on all the fortifications; the different Christian consuls paid the United States the same compliment, the Sophia immediately returned the same number of guns and thus ended this ceremony.

While the Bashaw was looking over the consular presents he asked me if the United States had sent the two pieces of linen for a sample. I answered that it was too dear to give much away at a time. He then said that I must give him two more common gold watches. I promised I would if I could purchase them here. I very fortunately had kept back a number of the articles belonging to the presents, expecting a second demand, I therefore gave him the two watches without putting the United States to any further expense. In the evening his excellency sent his compliments to me and said he would esteem it a very particular favor if I would let him have two of the brigs brass guns, as they would be very serviceable to him for field pieces, and that he would give the brig two iron guns in their place. I told the messenger that I would consult the captain and send him an answer in the morning. A few moments afterwards one of the chaoux came with the Bashaw's orders to receive a handsome present for proclaiming the peace. I ordered Farfara to give him ten dollars—he said that he must have one hundred at least. Not long afterwards his excellency sent his compliments and would thank me for a few bottles of rum. I sent him eight bottles of cordials which I had purchased at Tunis for my own use. I forgot to mention that the Bashaw desired me to take a house of his own that

was at present unoccupied. I informed him that I had not seen it, but I would give him an answer in a few days. I have since found that it is an old house entirely out of repair, and that he wants me to take it in order that he may ask me to repair it at the expense of the United States. I have therefore requested Mr. McDonogh to inform the Bashaw that I would rather remain in the house where I am at present, and if there is no other alternative to take the house and pay the rent annually which is one hundred manboobs (value of a manboob $1.35) a year, which would be much better than to repair it, which would cost at least $5,000.

Thursday the 11th of April, 1799.—It is customary when ever a peace takes place to give the Bashaw from three to five barrels of powder, this I knew could not be got, I therefore thought proper to give him the two brass guns in lieu of the powder, and not to receive the iron guns which he promised in their place, supposing they would be good for very little. At 5 p. m. Capt. Geddes, Mr. McDonogh and myself waited on the Bashaw, and were received by him with quite a different aspect from what we were before. After some common place conversation and drinking coffee, his excellency said that he would write other letters to the Prince of America, (President of the United States he meant.) Dey of Algiers and Bey of Tunis, and desired me to send him those he had sent before, saying he had written them in a passion, that we were now at peace and if the United States was disposed to acknowledge him to be a free and independent Prince he, the Bashaw, was disposed to do them every favor in his power. I could not thank him from my soul, I therefore retired and on our turning round from the audience seven guns were fired from the castle, which the Sophia returned, the colors were hoisted, as yesterday, upon all the fortifications and consuls' houses, and thus ends our negotiation with this Regency.

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART,

The original was certified and signed by B. McDonogh and Henry Geddes.

Expenses attending the above negotiation with Tripoli in Barbary, promised to the Bashaw in lieu of the stores stipulated by treaty and gratification for their detention $10,000; promised in lieu of the brig Sophia which Capt. O'Brien promised the Bashaw $8,000; contingent expenses about $1,500; consular present, including the cloth, $4,000.

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

Tripoli in Barbary, April 13, 1799.

TRIPOLI, 13th April, 1799.

Richard O'Brien, Esq., Consul General for the U. S. A. at Algiers.

Sir:—When I was in Algiers you gave me to understand that I would have no difficulty whatever to encounter at Tripoli. On my arrival here I found it otherwise; I have, however, surmounted them all by the help of our frend, Dr. McDonogh, who I am sorry you have so long neglected. I am now happy to inform you that the United States of America is at perfect harmony with this Regency, if I may be allowed the term, the particulars of our negotiation you will be informed of by Capt. Geddes, as I do not think it proper to detain the brig longer than I can avoid; otherwise I would give you a detail of the negotiation which you must now request from the Secretary of State. I have been informed here from indubitable authority that you promised the Bashaw the brig Sophia and Capt. Geddes told me that you had told him you had made the Bashaw a kind of a promise by the way of "greasing the ways." Now, sir, you know that such promises must be fulfilled; I therefore was

obliged to redeem your promise by giving the Bashaw $8,000 in lieu of said vessel, and in lieu of the stores and for his condescension for waiting so long for them, $10,000 more, which makes $18,000. The contingent expenses will amount to about $1,500 more, which makes $19,500 in all, consular presents excepted. Mr. Farfara has become responsible for said sum which is to be paid immediately; I therefore request you will honor said Farfara's bills to the amount of $17,000, the two thousand Algerine sequins I received from Azulai at Tunis I have given to the Bashaw in part payment. Farfara has not forwarded his accounts yet; when he does I will send them to you. Mr. Ingraham has not left a single document in this office, he has taken even the treaty away with him. I am creditably informed that he has not spent $50 on the house I now live in; and as for his public dinners there was nobody here to eat them. Mr. Eaton and myself have found by experience that the interference of the Dey of Algiers with either of the other Regencies has been detrimental to the affairs of the United States. The heads of these Regencies insist on being respected as independent Princes, and if the United States wishes to maintain their peace with Tunis and Tripoli, our government must drop the idea of soliciting the mediation of the Dey of Algiers, and cultivate the friendship of the reigning Princes for the time being. I have not time to write you any more on the subject at present, but refer you to Capt. Geddes who was witness to all my transactions here. I imagine the stores for Tripoli must be shipped before this and on their arrival at Algiers I would advise you by all means to forward them on to Tunis, as they will be very serviceable there. Mr. Eaton, I presume, has informed you of the demand which the Bey has made for presents to a considerable amount. It is my opinion that Mr. Eaton will be able to get clear of that demand, for the stores that were intended for Tripoli or $10,000 in cash. I shall be glad to

hear every public intelligence that you will be able to communicate, and in the meantime I am, sir,

Your humble servant,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

Copy of a letter from Joel Barlow, Esq., to Mr. Bryan McDonogh at Tripoli.

ALGIERS, 8th October, 1796.

Sir:—I beg you to accept my thanks for the good offices you were so good as to render to Capt. O'Brien during his detention at Tripoli, and likewise to the crew of the American ship who were taken prisoners in that place. I assure you that my nation will not forget such an act of generosity. Captain Ingraham, who accompanies Capt. O'Brien at this time to Tripoli, and who probably will be charged interim with our affairs, may likewise stand in need of your attention and friendship. In the meantime if I can be useful to you or your friends in this place I beg you would command me without ceremony, as I am, with great respect and gratitude, sir, your most

Obedient servant,

JOEL BARLOW.

In the original went enclosed a letter of thanks from Mr. O'Brien to Mr. McDonogh which with the services he rendered me on my arrival here determined me to give him $800.

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

TRIPOLI, April 14, 1799.

Hon. Timothy Pickering, Secretary U. S. of A.

By the enclosed you will be informed of the former services of Mr. McDonogh with which, until my arrival here,

I was unacquainted. When he first came on board the Sophia, he was very much piqued that neither you nor Mr. O'Brien had written him one line of thanks for his services; but I found means to convert him to our interest by a present of $500, and promising to pay him for two month's servitude since the departure of Ingraham, which I assure you he has earned, he having been of great service to us here. I do not think it prudent to forward a copy of our negotiations here to O'Brien, as he has too great an opinion of the influence of the Dey of Algiers, which I assure you in respect to this Regency is only nominal. The fact is the heads of the different Regencies play into each others hands; the Jews of Algiers do the same and make Mr. O'Brien believe that they are people of influence, when in reality they have none at all. Another reason is, O'Brien might persuade the Dey to write to the Bashaw on the subject, which would only tend to injure our affairs here; as we are now quiet let us endeavor to remain so as long as possible. I am now only waiting for the Bashaw's letters in answer to those I brought here, when I shall dispatch the brig immediately; you may depend I have not made any unnecessary delay. In my next I will inform you of many particulars worthy of notice, as I have not time at present. Hoping that my conduct may meet with the appreciation of the Government, I beg leave to subscribe myself with

Respect and esteem,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

The letter of thanks was of an old date; Mr. McDonogh was piqued that O'Brien did not write to him by me.

TRIPOLI, April 15, 1799.

Hon. Timothy Pickering.

Dear Sir:—Yesterday evening a Greek vessel arrived here from Constantinople and Candia loaded with military

stores, with an ambassador from the Grand Signore and a caftan or roll of honor for the Bashaw of Tripoli. It is currently reported that he has likewise brought a firman constituting the Bashaw of Tripoli generalissimo of all the Ottoman troops in Barbary, with orders to act with vigor against the French; in consequence of which the Bashaw has confined the French consul and all his suite to their houses, who were before permitted to walk about as usual. It is also reported that the Grand Signore has sent a large ship loaded with maratine and military stores to Commodore Ball, who commands the squadron which blockades Malta; which, it is supposed, must inevitably fall into the hands of the British in a few weeks. By the first opportunity, I will endeavor to give a more circumstantial account of this embassy; at present I can only write what common report says. I have received a sealed letter from the Bashaw for his excellency, the President, and the Bashaw has requested me to detain the brig until the morning, as he has not time at present to answer the letters to the Dey of Algiers and Bey of Tunis. I am with great respect,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

William Eaton, Esq., Tunis.

Dear Sir:—By forwarding this copy of our negotiation to Mr. Smith at Lisbon, you will confer a lasting obligation on your friend and brother exile,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

Tripoli, August 29, 1799.

NOTE.—By the Sophia I wrote to Mr. Eaton but did not keep a copy of the letter, it only contained the sum I agreed to pay the Bashaw and a promise to write again soon.

Henry Geddes, Commander of the U. S. Brig Sophia.

Sir:—This instant I have received the long expected letters from his excellency the Bashaw of Tripoli for Tunis and Algiers; you will therefore please to proceed with the United States Brig Sophia under your command to Tunis, where you will please to deliver such dispatches as are destined for that place to Wm. Eaton, Esq., agent and consul for the United States there. The dispatches which you have received from me for the Secretary of State you will please to deliver yourself; you will likewise oblige me by giving our Government every information which your own observation has furnished you with during your stay in Barbary. Wishing you a prosperous passage to Tunis I am, with great respect and esteem,

Your humble servant,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

Tripoli, April 17, 1799.

Tripoli in Barbary, April 27, 1799.

Richard O'Brien, Esq., Consul General for the United States of America at Algiers.

Sir:—Before you receive this you will be informed by Capt. Geddes of the difficulties I had to surmount in negotiating with this Regency, and considering the exorbitancy of the Bashaw's first demand I think I have been fortunate. You know that I was permitted by my instructions from the Secretary of State to promise an armed vessel of 10 or 12 guns to this Regency, if I should think it necessary to preserve our peace here. Our affairs were in such a state, on my arrival, that had I not made a sacrifice war would have been inevitable. I am very happy to have had it in my power to terminate our affairs with this Regency within the limits prescribed by my instructions, and by so doing have insured the approbation of government. Had I promised the

above mentioned vessel alone, she would have cost the United States more than I promised the Bashaw for the stores and Sophia, which has been fully proved that you promised this Regency when our peace took place; besides, had the United States given a vessel of 12 guns to Tripoli, they must inevitably have given one of 20 at least to Tunis. This you have been made sensible of by the tenor of our negotiation with Tunis, a journal of which was forwarded to you from Tunis by Mr. Eaton, our consul general there. Our affairs with this Regency are now perfectly settled, and we enjoy a peace that we must maintain by occasionally making small presents to the Bashaw and great men, as every other nation does that are at peace with this, or any other of the States of Barbary.

On the 14th a Greek vessel arrived here from Constantinople and Candia loaded with military stores and a caftan or roll of honor for the Bashaw as a present from the Grand Signore. It is currently reported that the ambassador who has arrived in this vessel has a firman constituting the Bashaw of Tripoli generalissimo of all the Ottoman troops, with orders to act with vigor against the French. In consequence of this command the Bashaw has confined the French consul and all his suite to their houses. (The reader will please excuse this being a repetition of my letter to the Secretary of State.)

On the 19th arrived another Greek vessel with a chaoux and letters from the Grand Signore from the heads of all the Barbary States. He confirms the news brought by the ambassador and adds that Bonaparte is blockaded in Cairo by the Ottoman troops; that the Grand Signore has given orders to give no quarters to the French; that Corfu is now the headquarters of the Ottoman fleet under the command of the Captain Bashaw; that the British have taken Alexandria and delivered it up to the troops of the Grand Signore. All the sea ports of Sicily are in the hands of the British. The King of Naples and Admiral Nelson are both

at Palermo. The French are still in possession of Naples, but the city is blockaded by part of Nelson's fleet. There has been a counter revolution in Calabria where the peasants defeated the French party and drove them into the city, which is the only place in the kingdom which the French holds.

This last chaoux has come to request the Regency of Barbary to send their cruisers to the Levant to co-operate with the fleet under the command of the Captain Bashaw, who it is supposed will join Nelson for the purpose of effecting the reduction of Naples and the rest of Italy, which is still in the interest of the French Republic. The Grand Signore likewise requests that the Barbary States will send an army to Derne, the eastern province of Tripoli, in order to impede Bonaparte in his march to the westward, should he be so fortunate as to evade the vigilance of the Grand Signore's troops, and escape from Cairo. The Bashaw of Tripoli has promised to send 10,000 men who are now getting into readiness, but his Admiral and five of his cruisers being at sea, and one of them being taken a few days ago by the Portuguese, he has deferred giving an answer to that point until he heard what Tunis and Algiers intended to do. He says he intends to do the same.

On the 21st inst. the Bashaw sent for me and asked me how the French were treated at Algiers and Tunis. I told him exactly the truth. He said he had just received a letter from Algiers by land, via Tunis, which informed him that the Algerines had concluded a new treaty with the French, and that every thing was reinstated as formerly. I told him I did not believe one word of it, and that I was certain he was deceived; he said he wanted to act in the same manner towards the French as the Algerines and Tunisians do, but did not wish to irritate the French, as he heard they were fitting out a large fleet at Toulon, which was probably destined for some of the Barbary States. I informed him that the French were not in a state, at present, to fit out a

fleet of any great consequence; that probably the relief of Bonaparte or Malta, but in that case I had no doubt but Admiral Nelson would give a good account of them in a little time; and that in my opinion his excellency ought to be cautious to not offend the British, as they had a very strong fleet in the Mediterranean, and were as willing as capable of retaliating in case it should be found that he was partial to the French. He answered that he was by no means partial to them, but that good policy dictated to him not to act with precipitation in any affair of so much magnitude.

I return you your box of tea or tea leaves; I have been very much deceived by it, having given away seven or eight pounds of best Young Hyson; expecting this to have been as good, I opened it and behold it was "Fair without but foul within." You will send me as much good tea as I have expended, as it is really a great loss to Mrs. Cathcart, who has not half a pound left. Coffee, sugar, cordials, which I bought at Tunis, are all gone, given away to content these people; knives, forks, glasses, plates, etc., are all begged from me, and I can not refuse them without making myself an enemy, even for a trifle not worth a dollar. You will please forward on my salary as it becomes due in gold or silver, or order Azulai at Tunis to answer my drafts for the same, as I can not get any thing but base metal here from Farfara, on which there is both loss and inconvenience. What little money I brought here of my own I have lent to him, as he is without a farthing of gold or silver until a vessel arrives from Leghorn or Triest. In consequence of the Jews festival Farfara has not made out his accounts yet; when he does I will forward on copies. You will please to send on copies of my letters to the Secretary of State and Mr. Smith at Lisbon, as it is our duty to furnish Government with every information in our power; and there is no conveyance at present from Tripoli but by way of Tunis and Algiers. You will likewise send me my journal of our nego-

tiation with the Regency of Algiers, as I want to copy it off fair. I have nothing more to add at present, but am, sir,

Your humble servant,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

TRIPOLI IN BARBARY, May 5, 1799.

William Eaton, Esq.

My Dear Sir:—Yesterday arrived in the road of Tripoli a Danish frigate, in 21 days from Leghorn which brings the following intelligence:

That Tuscany is entirely in the hands of the French troops; that at Florence there is a kind of government formed by them; that at Leghorn as yet there is none, it being in great confusion. Their agents there have placed the national seal on the magazines, and houses of all people suspected to be in the interest of the enemies of the Republic. The populace have planted a tree, which they call the tree of liberty, in the most public square, and the Jews have imitated them so far as to plant a similar emblem of deception in the quarters of the town which they inhabit; the more intelligent limbs of the Mosaical law here are very sorry for this procedure, as it almost amounts to a certainty that the French can not long keep possession of either Tuscany or any other part of Italy. Such grand preparations are making against them by the allies, and the season for carrying them into effect is not far advanced. The Emperor of Germany has declared war against the Republic, in consequence of the French having neglected or refused to fulfill the articles of Campo Formio. Sixty thousand Russian troops have arrived in Germany, part of whom are already near the Rhine and the remainder near the confines of Italy. The Imperial army has entirely routed the French army at Verona, and has likewise forced them to give way at the Rhine. Forty thousand Turkish, Russian,

and some English troops, have disembarked at Salermo, in order to join the natives of Calabria, which are to march against the French in Naples. The counter revolution which has taken place in Holland causes that Republic a great deal of trouble, and is commanded by an English general named Wallace. I have not heard a syllable by this arrival of the operation of the British fleet, but suppose they will co-operate with the troops for the reduction of Naples, Leghorn and Malta. A vessel armed at Leghorn a few days before this frigate's departure from Cyprus, which informed that Bonaparte has been totally defeated by the Bashaw of Damascus. Some say that he has escaped, and some few believe that he is a prisoner. The last chaoux that arrived here from the Porte demanded, in the name of the Grand Signore, that the whole French legation here should be sent prisoners to Constantinople, in consequence of which, on the 17th and 28th ult, the Divan assembled and consulted on the propriety of the measure, who gave it as their opinion that it would be improper to comply with this order until they can be informed whether Tunis and Algiers do the same; a chaoux leaves here in a few days on this and other business.

Citizen Arnaud, the person who was landed here from the French brig with orders to return by land to Grand Cairo, was detained by an Arab sheik by the name of Siefel Nassy, and I am sure he is dead before this time. I read a letter from him dated in the desert the 28th of Germinal, which is certainly the last that ever he wrote; he has fallen a sacrifice to the policy of this Regency by the express order of the Bashaw. The fortifications of this city are all doubly manned every night since the arrival of the last chaoux, and it is reported that the Bashaw intends to head his army himself, and to go with them to the confines of his dominion; but this last report I think is highly inmprobable. This frigate has come here with 20 twelve pounders, carriages and apparatus complete, a present from the king of Den-

mark to this Regency. Mr. Lockner, the Danish consul, is superseded by a young gentleman who is to come out in a frigate in a short time, and he is to have a pension for his services. Mr. Leon Farfara informs me that he expected money from Leghorn to comply with the Bashaw's demand from the United States, but in consequence of the French having taken possession of that place he has not received a dollar by this frigate, and that I will be obliged to give him bills upon Tunis and Algiers for the amount. Should this be the case you will please to spare no pains to negotiate the said bills, and I will endeavor to procure permission from the Bashaw to draw them payable 40 or 50 days after sight, which will give you an opportunity of sending a courier to Algiers to advise Messrs. O'Brien and Bacri, if you can not procure the cash on the credit of the United States without them. At all events it must be procured for fear of detention being the cause of fresh demands upon the nation, as the Bashaw is very much elated in consequence of the honor paid him by the Grand Signore. It is a very fortunate circumstance that our affairs were settled before the arrival of these ambassadors. There is no opportunity of sending letters direct from here to Europe, I therefore beg of you to inform Messrs. Smith, Humphreys and O'Brien of whatever you may find worthy of notice in my communication. I am, sir, with esteem, your very

Humble servant,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

Tripoli, May 10, 1799.

William Eaton, Esq.

Dear Sir:—This day I have drawn a bill of exchange on you, payable 50 days after sight, to the order of Leon Farfara, of Tripoli, for $10,000 Spanish, by order of the Bashaw of this Regency, who wants said money in Tunis to

serve his necessities there. I make no doubt but Azulai will advance the above sum immediately; but if he should make any difficulty you can draw small bills to the above amount upon the Bacri at Algiers, which notes will be taken at Tunis without discount. Leon Farfara has advised Solomon Azulai what use the above sum is to be put to for the Bashaw. You will please to advise Mr. O'Brien of my having drawn upon you for the above sum as soon as possible. Monday, May 6, arrived the Alfonco, Commodore Campbell. I have just received a letter from the Bashaw and must go to Farfara to have it translated. Let me hear from you by the return of the courier. I am,

Yours as usual,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

This was sent by land with my first of exchange, a copy of which was sent by sea on the 22nd inst., with my second of exchange and a third was sent to O'Brien at Algiers by Hadgi Mahamoud Ebn Suliman.

TRIPOLI, May 11, 1799.

Richard O'Brien, Esq.

Sir:—Inclosed you will receive Leon Farfara's account current, with a copy of my letter of yesterday to Mr. Eaton at Tunis, which will inform you of the manner in which the money has been expended which I have drawn for; you will please facilitate the payment of the following bills as soon as possible, viz: One of the 10th of May drawn by me upon Wm. Eaton, Esq., of Tunis, for $10,000, payable to Solomon Azulai of Tunis, 50 days after sight, to be expended by him for the Bashaw of Tripoli according to the orders of Leon Farfara of Tripoli; one of the same date upon you,

payable 15 days after to the order of Leon Farfara for $3,000; one ditto upon you, payable to the order of Joseph Coen Bacri at Algiers, which sum is to be given to the Tripoline ambassador, Hadgi Mahamoud Ebn Suliman, who will deliver you this. You will see by Farfara's account that I have drawn bills to the amount of $16,000, and that I have paid him the two thousand Algerine sequins which I have received from Solomon Azulai at Tunis, which here were only worth $3,500, the whole item of expense attending the negotiation is $19,500 with this Regency since my arrival here, in full of all demands for the brig Sophia and stores, which you promised the Bashaw when our peace was concluded here. My contingent bill is so trifling that I shall not make it out only every six months, when I shall draw for my salary which I hope you will endeavor to have paid to me in gold or silver, as I before requested of you in mine of the 27th of April, a copy of which accompanies this. The bearer of this is an acquaintance of yours—you know him—I therefore advise you to be very cautious what you say in his presence, as he can do a great deal of mischief here when he returns. I think it is most advisable for you to pay him the $3,000 and have nothing more to say to him. I requested Mr. Eaton to forward you a copy of my letter to him, dated the 5th of May, which I hope you will receive before you do this, 'tho it contains nothing very interesting. Yesterday I received a letter from the Bashaw requestnig me to carry dspatches for him to Lord Nelson. I evaded the request without either giving offense or going to any expense—they were sent on board the Danish frigate which sails for Palermo this evening. I am, sir,

Your humble servant,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

TRIPOLI, May 6th, 1799.

Richard O'Brien, Esq.

Sir:—On Monday, May 6th, arrived in this road her most faithful Majesty's ship the Alfonco de Albuquerque of 64 guns, commanded by Commodore Donald Campbell, with orders and a letter from Admiral Nelson to demand all the French citizens then in Tripoli. The Bashaw at first behaved very honorable upon the occasion, he said he would not deliver them up to so small a force, especially as the Grand Signore had made the first demand, but that he would promise to send them to Constantinople in a few days. Commodore Campbell answered "that if he did not send them on board immediately he would knock his castle about his ears." On the 8th instant the consuls resident here were officially informed that the city was blockaded. On the 9th about 2 p. m. the Alfonco got under way and sent her boats well manned and armed ahead to sound, intending to come to an anchor as close to the fortifications as possible, to there clap a spring upon the cable and keep up a constant fire against the castle, while her boats went into the inner road and destroyed the cruisers. At 4:30 p. m., just as she was about to commence the cannonade she was taken with a heavy squall, which split her fore-top sail and carried away her main top sail yard, which obliged Commodore Campbell to haul the ship off and stand out to sea to repair her damages. On the 10th I received a letter in Arabic from the Bashaw, a translation of which is inclosed. Number one is as follows in the original inclosure.

SIA LODE, a cui e dovesto.

Al nostro amico de Americo residente in questa Cita ae cui Jddio accorde li suoi desideri dopo di Caramente sal utavier vi facciamo sapere chi albiamo bisogno de un affare de somma trenura e doressimo che ter dostre mez zo fosseesquito qual e che voi vimba scate nel Bastimento bat trovasi agui con ban diera Spadnola facendo—nello stesso quella degli State United America e partire con il medisimo

vois tesso pen Parlermo quetso affaire che ri treghiamo di assumere ri assicura per tarti nostra una grandissima obligazione e vrell istesso tempo renda esti services al rostro governo eaquella della grau Brettagna essendo cosa conveniente a tulli noi. Le voi ri compiacerete in questa nostra demanda li farete in favor che loscor deremo giamia Nentre ri anguro orgui felicita.

Data in Tripoli in Barbara, Li 4 di Delhegia 1213 che corrispondeai 10 maggio 1799. Lo Schiavo d'Iddio, Jousef Bacria, Caramandi che Iddio Conservi.

I evaded the Bashaw's request without either giving umbrage to him, or putting the United States to any expense, and hinted that probably the Danish frigate now in the road would do him the favor he requested of me; he immediately sent an order to the consul to tell the captain of said frigate to get ready for sea immediately, as he desired him to carry a letter to Lord Nelson. The captain complied without hesitation and sailed the 11th instant. Sunday 12th the Alfonco hove in sight again, she having destroyed a Guerlinoguiccie of 18 guns, commanded by Suliman Rais,—she ran ashore in a heavy surf. Commodore Campbell sent his boats to burn her, which they effected with the loss of a boat and two men wounded, one of whom has since died. There must have been numbers of the Moors killed as the Commodore informed me that they behaved well, but the ship having run into four fathom water soon cleared the beach with showers of well directed grape and canister. At 1 p. m. Marad Rais, an infamous English renegade, who at present commanded the Tripoline squadron, hove in sight on board the ship Betsy of Boston, which was taken by him before the Americans concluded a treaty with these pirates. She now mounts 18 guns upon the main deck, 6 on the quarter-deck, 2 bow and 2 stern chacers. She has lately another

ship of nearly the same dimensions being completely fitted out and coppered by the Spaniards at Carthagena as a compliment to this Regency. Marad Rais had a Swedish scow in company with him, which, with another of the same nation and two Danes, he had captured before under the pretense of their having false passports; the Danes he sent into Tunis but the Swedes he ordered to keep company with him. As soon as Commodore Campbell got within gun shot of them they both struck in sight of the Bashaw and all his brave warriors, which gave a favorable turn to Campbell's affairs. Dr. Bryan McDonogh was sent on board by the Bashaw to propose a truce, which was accepted on condition that he should immediately send all the French citizens on board. At 4:30 p. m. a white flag was hoisted on the Bashaw's castle, which fired two guns; the Alfonco answered the signal and the French to the number of 38 or 40 were sent on board in a Moorish spalonaras. 14th—Marad came on shore on parole; this night the Commodore detained the other Swede that Marad had taken and sent an officer and seaman on board to take possession of her. 15th.—The captain of the Alfonco, Senior Joze Maria d'Almeida, came on shore and concluded a treaty of peace between her most faithful Majesty and the Bashaw of Tripoli. The treaty to be the same in substance as the existing treaty between Great Britain and this Regency, and in the terms contained in inclosure number two viz:—Inclosure number two in the original Portuguese:

O Baxa de Tripoli tendo reprezentado as cheffe di Divazao Donald Campbell o injuria que fazia a sua honra na vista de to do a Mundo oter o maior Navio de su Almirante sido tirado do seo Porto equantio prejudicava as suoy forzas mantimas que agora hao de ser empregadas contro o Inimigo Commun os Frances as e meritas ostras Razoes ponderavies a cheffe de Divizao resolves entregan a Fragata com as siguentes condicoes.—Primeiro.

1. Que a Fragata seja avaliada im trenta Mil auvas de Hespanha, 30,000.

2. Que o Baxa pague immediamente os tres Octavos desta Lomma peitenecentes dos officaes Marinheros e Eqiupage que vene aser onze Mil durentos e Sincointa dnosde, 11,250 Hespanha.

3. Que o Baxa receba os sinco octavos que restao pertenecentes aos officaes que rem azer dezoito mil sete centose sencornta como him presente de sna Majestade Fed a en lugar des presentes costo mados a fazar a Paz ordinarimente chamados os presents consulares eque o mismo Baxa deiche intiermenta arbitrcacao e generocidade co Rainha de Portugal o fazer o nos fazer ontra qualquies a presenti, 30,000.

Bordo da Nao de sua Magestade Fedilissima Affonces de Albuquerque surta na frente de Tripoli de Barbaria a dezoita de Maio de mil sete centos noventa e nore, que corresponde a as doze dias dellegia mille duzentose treze.

DONALD CAMPBELL.

[Copy of a letter to Mr. McDonogh.]

Sir:—That no time may be lost as I am determined to be off tomorrow, I send two receipts on shore signed and sealed by me. The Bashaw ought to have it written on the left side of the paper in his language and signed, to facilitate which I have sent you an English translation, but should there not be time to have the receipt written in Arabic, I would rather take the Bashaw's, using one of those receipts I send than wait another day. When the cash and one receipt is on board, I deliver up the vessels, but not 'till then—my boat is at your orders.

Yours truly,

DONALD CAMPBELL.

Alfonco, 18th May, 1799, Consul McDonogh.

[English Translation of inclosure number two.]

The Bashaw of Tripoli having represented the Cheffe

d'Divizao, Donald Campbell, how injurious it would be to his honor to have, in the face of the world, his largest ship and admiral taken out of his port, and how much it would prejudice his marine forces now to be employed against the French, with many other weighty reasons, the Cheffe d' Divizao has resolved to deliver the frigate on the following conditions:

1. That the frigate shall be valued at $30,000, Spanish.

2. That the Bashaw shall pay immediately the three-eighths belonging to the petty officers and men, which is $11,250.

3. That the remaining five-eighths belonging to the officers, which is $18,750. The Bashaw shall receive as a gratuity from her most faithful Majesty, in the place of the present usually made by all nations on the occasion of making a peace, generally called consular presents, and the Bashaw leaves it entirely to the arbitration and generosity of the Queen of Portugal whether she will, or not, make any further presents.

Sealed and signed as per original in Portuguese.

At 3:30 p. m., the fortifications saluted with 21 guns, which was returned by the Commodore. The captain and officers dined with me, and the Swedish brig, which was retaken during the truce, was delivered up to the Tripolines and sent into the inner road.

May 16th.—To show the impudence of Marad Rais, notwithstanding the disgrace he has lately fallen into here, he sent the present which was sent by the Bashaw to his house in his absence, back to me. I informed him that I had delivered all the consular presents to the Bashaw, who divided them himself, that of course he offered an insult to the Bashaw and not to me in returning them. That I would return them to his excellency again and he, I made no doubt, would know what to do with them. He impertinently replied that he would not dirty his hands with them. Commodore Campbell and McAuley dined with me today, and

were witnesses to this fellows impertinence. This being the first day of Bairam, or Moorish festival, little business can be transacted. At 10 a. m. I paid my devoirs to the Bashaw in company with the Swedish consul; after dinner we proposed to take a walk outside of the gates—in an instant we were surrounded by a number of Arabs from the camp of Guerrian who became very troublesome and threw a stone at the Commodore; had it not been for the timely interposition of one of their agas I doubt not but a disagreeable encounter would have taken place.

Saturday, 18th, I dined on board the Alfonco. In the morning sent the receipts and letter contained in inclosures to Bryan McDonogh, Esq., charge-des-affaires of her most faithful Majesty. The cash was sent on board by Mr. McDonogh and the Bashaw promised to have the receipts ready for the Commodore by the evening. At 6 p. m., the Commodore accompanied us on shore—the Alfonco saluted with seven guns—and waited on the Bashaw who promised to have the receipts and a letter for Admiral Nelson ready by next day. The vessel which Marad Rais commanded was delivered up to the Tripoline who got her under way to come into the port, but was ordered to come to an anchor by the Commodore.

Sunday, 19th.—Commodore Campbell dined with us today, after having waited upon the Bashaw who requested him to give the Grand Signore's chaoux a passage to Palermo. The Commodore answered that he had no objection, provided that he would come on board directly, but that he would not wait for him a moment; however he waited until 5:30 o'clock and neither chaoux, nor receipt appearing he said he was resolved not to be trifled with, and ordered Mr. McDonogh to haul down the Portuguese flag, if he, on his arrival on board should hoist a red flag, and fire two guns. The flag of Portugal had been hoisted on the late Venitian house this day about 3 o'clock, but was not saluted as customary. This piqued the Commodore a good deal;

however, before he had got half way on board the fortifications were saluted with 21 guns, which was returned by the ship, and she not getting under way in consequence of the wind blowing on shore. At 11 o'clock at night the chaoux, letters and receipts were sent on board in a Moorish boat which brought the following ironical note to Mr. McDonogh.

Sir:—I have received the chaoux's letters and receipts. You have had a great deal of trouble with us, so have I with you, but "blessed are the peace makers," the Lord will reward them. Thus ends this negotiation to the immortal honor of Portugal and Commodore Campbell. I most sincerely hope that this event may be the means of rousing the rest of the Christian nations from the lethargy they have been so long in, now that they will be informed what has been effected by one ship and of 64 guns, with the loss of only one man and a boat.

Monday, 20th of May.—The Alfonco got under way and left the Bashaw of Tripoli completely humbled. I write this in haste for fear I should not have it ready to send by Hadgi Mahamoud Ebn Suliman. I request, sir, you will forward exact copies of all my communications to the Secretary of State and Mr. Smith, as it is our duty to give our Government every information in our power.

Your humble servant,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

The following is the copy of the letter brought by Commodore Campbell from Admiral Lord Nelson, directed to the Bashaw of Tripoli:

VANGUARD, PALERMO, 28th April, 1799.

Sir:—When I received your Highness' letter by Captain Hardy of the Vanguard, I was rejoiced to find that you had renounced the treaty you had imprudently entered into with some of the emisaries of General Bonaparte, that man of blood, that despoiler of the weak, that enemy of all good

Mussulmen, for like satan he only flatters that he may the more easily destroy; and it is true that since the year 1789, all Frenchmen are exactly of the same disposition. I had sent your letter to the great King, my master; I had done the same to the Grand Signore, for I never would believe that your highness would say a word that was not most strictly true. A lie is impossible for a true Mussulman to tell, at least I had always believed so, what then must have been my astonishment to have heard from his Britanic Majesty's consul general, Mr. Lucas, that the moment the Vanguard sailed the French consul, and also the French vessels in the port, were allowed to fit for sea, and one, to my knowledge, had sailed for Malta. Why will your highness thus be led astray by evil counsellors, who can have no other object in view but your ruin?

Your Highness knows that although a powerful squadron of Portuguese ships has been, since last August, under my command that by every means in my power they have been prevented from cruising against the ships of your Highness, or from approaching your coasts. It is now my duty to speak out, and not to be misunderstood, that Nelson, who has hitherto kept your powerful enemies from destroying you, can and will let them loose upon you unless the following terms are, within two hours, complied with; viz:

That the French consul and vice-consul, and every Frenchman, are delivered on board her most faithful Majesty's ship, Alfonco, to Commodore Campbell, in two hours from Mr. Lucas setting his foot on shore. That hostages are also sent on board to remain until every Frenchman in the States of Tripoli shall be sent off, which shall not exceed four days.

There shall be no reservation or trick about the French consul at Tripoli, and he shall be on board in two hours from the demand being made. All French vessels, or vessels pretended to be taken from the French, shall be dstroyed in two hours. These terms complied with, Commodore Camp-

bell will, as he has done upon the passage, refrain from taking your vessels until his arrival at Palermo. If these proper terms are not complied with I can no longer prevent the ships of her most faithful Majesty from acting with vigor against your Highness. Your Highness will without difficulty write me a letter, the substance of which will be dictated by Mr. Lucas; you will also as a convincing proof of your detestation of the evil councils which have been given to you by Hamet Rais, your Captain of the port, either cause him to be delivered to Commodore Campbell, that I may send him to Constantinople, or dispose of him in such a manner that he may forever be incapable of giving your Highness any advice, for his heart is so black that I am informed he can give you no good. Your Highness will, I am confident, approve of the open and unreserved manner of this letter, and consider it is a proof of the honest, upright intentions of the Monarch who I have the honor of serving, and that it comes from your Highness most attached and

Faithful servant,

NELSON.

Note.—Lord Nelson on board his ship the Victory fell in battle, fighting against the combined force of the French and Spaniards, the 21st of October, 1805, off Cape Trafalgar, not having the precaution to cover his coat which was decorated with his star and other badges of distinction, he became an object for the riflemen placed purposely in the tops of the Bucentaur which lay on his quarter. Lord Nelson was distinguished for his valor, having lost an eye and his right arm some time before his last battle. The remains of Lord Nelson were interred with great pomp in St. Paul's Cathedral, Jan. 19, 1806.

A copy of the above was sent to Mr. Eaton at Tunis.

TRIPOLI, June 22, 1799.

William Eaton, Esq.

Dear Sir:—I had the pleasure of receiving yours of the 2nd, 23rd and 26th of April, on the 29th ult., and yours of the 15th of May on the 31st do, as likewise yours of the 2nd and 4th of June on the 21st inst. I am extremely happy that you have taken the necessary steps to facilitate paying the bill which I was obliged to drawn upon you for $10,000, as the non-payment of it would be attended with very dangerous consequences, and would be probably the means of fresh demands being made upon the United States—I hope you will therefore anticipate the demand. I forwarded to Mr. O'Brien a copy of my letters of advice to you, who sailed from here the 22nd of May direct for Algiers. Pray, sir, have you received the following letters from me, which I suppose you have not, as you have not acknowledged the receipt of them, viz: One dated April 27th, one do May 5th, one do May 10th, with my first of exchange for $10,000, one do relative to Commodore Campbell, containing a detailed account of his transactions from the 6th to the 20th of May. The letter of advice which I sent you with my second of exchange was a copy of the first which I dispatched from here on the 22nd ult. In one of the above letters was inclosed Sig. Farfara's account current with the United States, in order that it should be forwarded to Consul General O'Brien at Algiers.

The two Swedes which were taken by the Tripolines, retaken by the Portuguese and delivered up to them by this Regency are both here; their cargoes have been condemned on pretense that it was the property of Hamburgers. The vessels and people are liberated—the Danes, I presume, will share the same fate.

I enjoy a very indifferent state of health since my arrival here. Mrs. Cathcart is well, and presents her respects to you and Dr. Shaw, and all our friends at Tunis. My little Eliza, born in Tripoli, May 1st, 1799, is a fine child and looks

as if the climate agrees with her. In your two letters there is just thirteen lines; I have allowed you a tolerable interest on them, and notwithsanding I expected more, believe me to be with respect and esteem, your sincere friend and

Humble servant,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

Inclosed I send you a copy of Admiral Nelson's letter to the Bashaw of Tripoli, which will complete the detail of the Portuguese expedition against this place. See Nelson's letter—What News from Algiers?

TRIPOLI, July 7, 1799.

Richard O'Brien, Esq.

Sir:—In compliance with my orders from Government I have done myself the pleasure of informing you of the several particular transactions of this Government, contained in my letters of the 13th and 27th of April, and 5th, 11th and 20th of May, also a copy of my letter of advice to you and Mr. Eaton, dated May the 10th, and Mr. Leon Farfara, his account current, dated the 15th of April, which I received from him on the 10th of May, and forwarded two copies to you, the one by the way of Tunis and the other by Hadgi Mahamoud Ben Suliman. Before you receive this I hope you will have taken the necessary steps to discharge the bills I have drawn upon Tunis and Algiers, to the amount of $16,000, the whole of our arrears to this Regency. I have received a letter from Mr. Eaton dated the 4th of June, wherein he says he will take the necessary steps to discharge the bill drawn upon him, as delays may not only engender disgust but extraordinary demand on the United States, for the Bashaw lets no opportunity slip to take every advantage of the Christian nations at peace with him. In mine of the 20th of May I informed you that two Swedes were sent in here loaded with wine, brandy and salt—their cargoes have been condemned. The value of said cargoes are credited against the $32,000 which this Regency demands from

Sweden for some goods which were taken some time ago by the Portuguese out of a Swedish ship, which loaded here bound to Malta. Marad Rais captured two Danes at the same time, who put into Tunis and did not arrive here until the 20th of June; the Danish consul has cleared them by giving the Bashaw $8,500 in cash $500 to Marad Rais and the Rais of the Marine, and jewels to the value of $5,000 more to the Bashaw, the whole amounting to $14,000, exclusive of port charges. For this sum he has given bills upon the Bacris at Algiers for 12,600 manboobs, which makes the sum paid for clearance $17,610. Before the Bashaw would receive the above sum, he obliged the Danish consul to write him a letter under his own hand and seal of office, specifying that the above presents were in consequence of the circumcision of his son, and was not intended to answer any other purpose whatever. This the consul—very foolishly in my opinion—gave him, a copy of which I have now by me bearing date June 27th, 1799. The Swedish consul after the cargoes of his vessels were condemned desired leave to go to Sweden to bring his family to Tripoli. The Bashaw said if he left Tripoli he should consider it a declaration of war on the part of the Swedes, and would capture all Swedes his cruisers should happen to fall in with. The consul consequently remains until he hears the determination of his Government. Four cruisers are now getting ready for sea and will sail some time this month, under the command of the infamous renegade Marad Rais. It is supposed he will go into the western ocean to cruise for vessels of Hamburg and Bremen. Should these pirates bring any of our vessels upon any pretence whatever, I should be glad to have your directions how to act if I find it impossible to clear them by fair means; if their cargoes should be condemned as were the Swedes, shall I submit to it or shall I leave the country and proceed to Algiers in order to solicit the interference of the Dey, which you well know would be attended with a most enormous expense, and it is doubtful to me whether it would

answer any end whatever, as the Genoese vessel which was taken with the Dey of Algier's passport and was condemned here, has never been paid for nor ever will be, notwithstanding all the Divan's naratives, memorials and nonsence, which took place on that occasion, the Bashaw has neither paid for vessel or cargo. It is true that he has given up the paper to the Spanish consul, who has become security for the crew of said vessel; but had the money been paid it would have been kept as well as the vessel and cargo, or shall I try to bribe the Bashaw in order that he may clear them as he has done the Danes? In that case would it not be encouraging him to authorize his cruisers to commit greater depredations on our commerce? By this letter I mean to anticipate anything that may happen, in order that I may have your directions in writing to follow in any case similar to the Danes and Swedes, though at the same time I do not promise that any of our vessels will be molested for some time; however, I conceive it my duty to be prepared for action before an enemy heaves in sight.

Could you procure me six or eight passports from the Dey of Algiers, specifying that whatever American vessel that has them on board should be protected by the Regency of Algiers, and on the back of each passport certify under your seal of office that they were granted by your request, leaving a blank for the date of each. They might probably be of use, should any of the vessels be brought in here, I could convey one of them to the commander of each, privately, and he could present it as if he had received it at Algiers, or, in lieu of the passports, could you procure a firman from the Dey, under the great seal of the Regency, declaring that should the Tripolines capture any American vessel, that the Dey would claim her with all costs and damages in consequence of our treaty being guaranteed by said Regency. You could then transmit said firman to me to be kept in service by way of a sheet-anchor, until it would be necessary to present it in consequence of the capture of any of our vessels;

by presenting the said firman before our vessels were condemned might have a happy effect. But once the Bashaw has the money in his hands we may consider it to be in possession of Victor Hughues or Santhouax." The whole marine force of Tripoli consists in the English renegade, although there are here in port ten cruisers from 10 to 32 guns each, there is not one Rais to command them capable of conducting one of them to Minorca alone, the above mentioned excepted. Could any intrigue be formed by the consuls in Algiers to have this fellow effectually removed from Tripoli, we need not then be under any great apprehensions from their cruisers, they would all very soon go to decay, but while he remains here neither the commerce of the Americans, Danes, Swedes or Dutch, if they have any, will be secure from the depredations of the cruisers of this Regency. The consuls of the above nations ought, therefore, to make a common cause of it, and should it even cost their nations respectively, $1,200 or $1,500 each, it would still be to their interest to have him removed. I need not mention to you in what manner the above mentioned sum ought to be employed; you are old in the iniquity commonly called the "Policy of the Christian nations at peace with Barbary." When Marad Rais came last from Spain, he brought with him an American and a Swede, who turned Turks on the passage, but were not circumcised on their arrival here; both Mr. Coster and myself made a formal demand of them without effect, they renounced their faith in public and the Bashaw, to give him all the credit that is due to him —which I assure you is not much—tried to persuade them to the contrary, being influenced by a secret promise from me of a handsome present in case of his delivering me the uncircumcised American Mussulman. On the 19th of June, I received a present from the Bashaw of paste fried in oil and sweetmeats, which cost me as per my account current,— this is a genteel way of begging very customary in Tripoli. On the 26th I received a visit from the Bashaw, his three

sons and all the grandees, except the Kaiaja or Prime Minister, who was left in charge of the castle; he was accompanied by seven stands of colors, his music and guards, besides a number of his friends and all the principal men of the city. This put me to some expense but not anything considerable considering the occasion.

On the 27th I returned the visit and delivered presents in consequence of the circumcision of his youngest son Aly, who was circumcised this day at Lasel. My presents consisted of one gold repeating watch and chain, a diamond ring, one piece of brocade, one piece of Holland, one dozen of silk handkerchiefs, which I saved out of the consular presents, besides twenty-five pieces of striped satin, one piece of striped nankeen, and four pair of patent English silk stockings of my own, which cost as per my account current. At present I am on very good terms with his excellency, and shall endeavor to remain so while I am charged with the affairs of the United States, as I am convinced there is no other way to keep peace with a tyrant but by bribing and soothing his passions, or by the eloquent and all persuasive language of cannon balls, which I presume the United States, at present, finds it to their interest to employ. I am sorry to inform you that yesterday Mr. Coster, the Swedish consul, was stabbed in four different places by his servant, but the knife fortunately having no point none of the wounds are of any consequence, the servant is in prison and time will determine the result. Inclosed you will receive my account current to the 1st of July, 1799. I have drawn upon you for the balance on favor of Leon Farfara of Tripoli. I am, sir,

Your humble servant,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

P. S.—July 8th.—This day the Bashaw sent for Coster and asked him for a letter which he had written to the King of Sweden, as he said he wanted to make an addition to it. When his Majesty had received the letter he told Coster that he would neither give him the letter again nor let the Swedish vessels go, unless he gave him a certificate, under his seal of office, that Commodore Campbell had given him the cargo of Captain Bohrman in consequence of his having concluded peace with Portugal. The consul complied; poor man, he had no other alternative. Marad Rais is not contented with his presents, I would be glad if you would send me something to stop his mouth—a box of coffee cups, such as the Moors use, and some glassware would be of service here, as the Bashaw and grandees are always sending for such things—mine are all given away already. Once more let me request you not to neglect sending copies of my letters to the Secretary of State and Mr. Smith, as I have not any opportunity to send letters from here. My best respects to Messrs. Skjoldebrand, Frasinette, Faure, and all others that befriended us in adversity when we could not help ourselves —I wish I had it in my power to repay their kindness a thousand fold. I would thank you to return my journal of our negotiations with the Regency of Algiers.

The foregoing letter was inclosed in one to Mr. Eaton of the following date,

---

TRIPOLI, July 12, 1799.

Dear Sir:—I acknowledged the receipt of thirteen lines by the dog Bull on the 22nd ult. I am happy they were so significant. I hope you will not neglect to discharge the debt on demand even if before due, as I would not have that bill protested for $3,000 as I am convinced it would be of more detriment to the affairs of the United States than the loss of that sum would be.

Here follows an account of the capture and release of the Danes. Vide my letter to O'Brien on another page.

TRIPOLI, July 14, 1799.

William Eaton, Esq.

Dear Sir:—By the bearer Halifa Caigon, you will receive a letter from me with one for Mr. O'Brien; you wil please forward it and the rest of this letter, and one of the 15th to the same was upon private business.

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

The three foregoing letters were sent by Halifa Caigon, via Tunis, on board of a Ragusian brig, commanded by Capt. Matcovich.

TRIPOLI, July 9th, 1799.

Hon. Timothy Pickering.

Dear Sir:—Since the departure of the brig Sophia on the 19th of April, I have not had any opportunity of writing to you but by the way of Algiers, as I conceived it my duty to inform our consul general there of every transaction worthy of notice. I have requested him, at all times, to forward to you, and Mr. Smith at Lisbon, exact copies of our correspondence, which I hope he will not neglect. I have written six letters to him since my arrival here, but have not received a line in return, although I have received several letters from other correspondents in that city; in one of which, to my astonishment, I am informed that on the 25th of March Consul General O'Brien was married by the Swedish Consul Skjoldebrand to Betsy Robeson, the servant girl I brought out with me to attend on Mrs. Cathcart. She is a native of England and came to me at the call of an advertisement in Brown's paper. I never could learn how she got to America, as she never told a direct story. I had seen enough of her on the passage to cause me to form no very favorable opinion of her, and when Mr. O'Brien wished to take her to the table I objected, as I did not consider her a fit person to be on intimate terms with my wife; especially

in a place where there is no other female society. Betsy wished to be discharged—which I did freely. This letter takes a circuitous round, I therefore shall barely touch on the transactions which hâve taken place since my arrival here. I have given Mr. O'Brien a circumstantial detail of every particular, which I hope he has forwarded on for your inspection. By the dispatches intrusted to Capt. Geddes and the inclosed account current you will be informed that in lieu of the brig and stores promised to this Regency, I agreed to pay cash $18,000, and that the contingent expenses amounted to $1,500 more, the whole making the sum of $19,500. To discharge this sum I have paid 2,000 Algerine sequins drawn by me in Tunis equal here to $3,500. On the 10th of May, I gave Sig. Leon Farfara a bill of exchange upon Mr. Eaton of Tunis, payable 50 days after sight to the order of said Farfara for $16,000 and two upon Mr. O'Brien at Algiers for $3,000 each, payable 15 days after sight. Mr. Eaton in his of the 4th of June informs me that he will make provisions for the payment of the above when it becomes due, and at Algiers there is no doubt but Mr. O'Brien will do the same. When said bills—which I have been so fortunate to negotiate at their full value—are paid, this Regency will have no claim whatever on the United States of America, some small presents excepted, which custom has made a rule for all nations to pay which are at peace with them.

Some time before I arrived here the Bashaw of Tripoli had sent some live stock and other provisions to Malta on board of a Swedish ship, which was taken by the Portuguese and her cargo condemned, for which the Bashaw insists that the Government of Sweden shall pay him $32,000; they not taking any notice of said demand he ordered his cruisers to capture all the Swedish ships they fell in with. Two were taken by the English renegade loaded with wine, brandy and salt, on the 19th of April, and sent in here where they are, their cargoes having been condemned. The consul desired leave to return to Sweden to adjust this affair amicably;

the Bashaw answered that he would write to the King of Sweden himself, but if he, the consul, should leave Tripoli that he would consider it a declaration of war—the consul consequently remains here. Yesterday the Bashaw sent a letter written in Arabic and directed to the King of Sweden to the consul, which when translated was found to be of the following purport: That he, the Bashaw, imagined that free bottoms made free goods. That he had shipped goods on board a Swede vessel and that they were taken by the Portuguese, that he had claimed them from the Government of Sweden and had received no satisfacton, that he therefore was resolved to take the goods of his enemies out of all the Swedish ships his cruisers might fall in with until the value of the goods that were taken from him by the Portuguese should be refunded, that the cargoes of these vessels belonged to Hamburgers, who were at war with Trpoli, and if the Swedes allowed their flag to be insulted by the Portuguese that he was resolved not to be a loser by it. The English renegade at the same time captured two large Danes, having on board 1,300 pipes of wine and brandy on pretense of their being both Hamburgers with false Danish passports. They did not arrive here until the 20th of June, as they had put into Tunis and were there detained by contrary winds. On their arrival here the Bashaw signified to the Danish consul that he would condemn them if he did not purchase his favor; the consul therefore thought it advisable to make him a present of cash and jewels to the value of $13,500, and to the Rais and Minister of the Marine $500 more. This money was obliged to be procured immediately and the consul had no alternative but to give bills upon the Bacries at Algiers at a most enormous discount, he having given bills for manboobs, 12,600 which is equal to $17,010, when he only received here $14,000. This present was brought to the Bashaw on the 27th of June, in consequence of the circumcision of his son, Aly, which took place that day, and for no other pretense whatever. To this the consul, in my

opinion, very foolishly consented and immediately executed, affixing thereto his seal of office. The Danes were cleared the next day and will sail sometime this week. Should these pirates capture any of our vessels on any pretense whatever, and that I should find it impossible to clear them by fair means, pray, sir, how ought I to act? Ought I to submit to the insult offered our flag as the Swedes have done, or ought I to bribe as the Danes have done? And by that means encourage these villains to commit greater depredations on our commerce. Were I to follow the dictates of my own reason I would leave the country immediately and advise our Government to send two of our largest frigates, with four boats capable of carrying a 12 pounder in the bow of each, besides the ships' boats, which is a sufficient force to send against these paltroons. On my arrival in the Bay of Tripoli I would make a formal demand of all the property plundered from the United States, with every loss occasioned by the alteration of the voyage detention and $20,000 or $30,000 as a fine for their presumption, and if this was not acceded to immediately I would destroy every cruiser in their port which might be done with the greatest ease by the above force, there being 10 in number mounting from 10 to 32 guns each defended by two fortifications which could not bring above seven guns to bear upon any object to seaward. If we put up with the first insult you may depend, sir, we will be continually exposed to a repetition of them; at any rate our commerce in the Mediterranean will never be upon a respectable footing unless our ships of war occasionally make ther appearance in these seas. It is now time, sir, to consider what steps ought to be taken in case of necessity, for when the evil happens it will be too late to ask advice. I have written to Mr. O'Brien on the subject and shall act as he may advise until I have the honor of hearing from you which I hope may be soon.

Commodore Donald Campbell in the Alfonco, a Portuguese ship of 64 guns arrived here May the 6th and remain-

ed until the 20th, in which time he took the Tripoline Admiral and burned another cruiser of 18 guns, he then concluded a peace for Portugal with this Regency, their treaty to be as favorable in every respect as the treaty with Great Britain. I have sent copies of the whole proceeding to Messrs. O'Brien and Eaton, whom I have requested to forward copies to you and Mr. Smith. Inclosed you will find the terms on which the peace between Portugal and this Regency was concluded, and you will please to reflect that this was effected by one 64 gun ship only. I shall endeavor to forward to you copies of my journal and accounts current every six months if opportunities serve, and shall constantly correspond with Messrs. O'Brien and Eaton, who will transmit to you copies of my letters as it sometimes happens that a vessel does not leave here for six months. I have received a visit from the Bashaw and grandees, which has put me to small expense. I have likewise delivered presents to him in consequence of the circumcision of his son, Ciddi Aly, to the value of about $700, the articles which composed said presents—the value of $65 excepted—I had saved from the consular presents which I got at Algiers.

This letter goes via Ivyca and Alicant, that it may arrive soon, and find you in perfect health, is the sincere prayer of your most

Obedient servant,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

P. S.—If O'Brien and Eaton pay the bills I have drawn upon them when they become due, which I do not doubt, this Regency will have no demand whatever against the United States—the Bashaw has publicly declared that he is perfectly content with us. If his cruisers hereafter should molest our vessels it will be an act of piracy, in open violation of our existing treaty and contrary to the law of nations. It would be an act, sir, in my opinion, that ought not to be left unpunished. Mr. Ingraham's accounts were settled before I arrived here, I therefore can only observe that they are as

great an imposition on the United States as Mr. Clark's acts from Algiers were.

CIRCULAR.

TRIPOLI IN BARBARY, May 4, 1799.

Robert Montgomery.

Sir:—Being commissioned by the President of the United States of America to act in conjunction with Messrs. O'Brien and Eaton, in order to effect certain alterations in the treaty intervention of J. E. Famin, between the United States of America and the Regency of Tunis, I am happy to inform you that such alterations took place in said treaty as will meet the approbation of the President and Senate. On the 26th of March, 1799, and that for the nine next ensuing months from that date, all merchandise belonging to citizens of the United States imported into any of the ports of the Regency of Tunis pays duty only 3 per cent. advalorem, according to an old price current of the year 1753, which reduces the duty nearly one half. From Tunis I proceeded to Tripoli, where I have had the good fortune to persuade the Bashaw to receipt the sum of $18,000 in cash, in lieu of the stores and brig of war promised this regency when our peace took place. The above sum is in full of all demands from the United States forever.

I therefore congratulate the seamen and merchants of the United States on their being entirely out of danger from all the Barbary States, provided they are very particular with their passports which is absolutely necessary. I am sir,

Your humble servant,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

TRIPOLI, July 10, 1799.

Robert Montgomery, Esq.

Sir:—You will please forward the inclosed to the Secre-

tary of State as soon as possible, as it contains information of importance for our Government. If there is no direct conveyance from the Alicant or Malaga please to send it by post to Smith at Lisbon. With pleasure I inform you that the affairs of the United States are happily settled with this Regency, and that we enjoy perfect tranquility. Please to answer my letters that accompany this as soon as possible. Your barilla I could have purchased for $50 per ton, but I suppose you are insured. I am, sir,

Your humble servant,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

The above letters were forwarded by Capt. Goviuius via Ivyca and Alicant.

TRIPOLI, July 22, 1799.

William Eaton, Esq.

My Dear Sir:—With pleasure I acknowledge the receipt of yours of the 9th, 23rd, and 24th ult., and am exceedingly happy that you have anticipated the demands of the Moors by paying them before the bill became due. I hope Mr. O'Brien has done the same as I drew upon him for the balance of our arrears due to this Regency. We are at present on very good terms with this Regency, but there is no confidence to be placed in these pirates. I have informed you how they have treated the Danes and Swedes, although at perfect peace with them, and may we not with reason expect to be treated in the same manner, if our vessels of war are not ordered to make their appearance occasionally in the Mediterranean? I have written to Col. Pickering and Mr. O'Brien on the subject, and have requested them to send me instructions how to act in case any of our vessels should be brought in here on any pretense whatever; until I hear from them I hope I shall not be troubled on that account. I have not had a line from Mr. O'Bren, although

I have written him six long letters; personal pique, in my opinion, ought to be sacrificed when the interests of out country is at stake. I should think myself unworthy of the trust reposed in me if I hesitated a single instant in communicating any thing that involved the national interests of our citizens, even to my greatest enemy if I imagined that he could be of any service to our common cause—I hope Mr. O'Brien may think the same. I will write you again in a few days, but the brig that conveys this sails this evening, and I have yet her passport to make out. Mrs. Cathcart presents her compliments to you, Dr. Shaw, Mr. and Mrs. Tulin and all her friends in Tunis. I confide in your forwarding every thing of moment which I shall communicate to you to Col. Pickering and Mr. Smith, as I have had but one opportunity of writing since my arrival here via Ivyca and Alicant. Believe me to be with sincerity,

Your friend and servant,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

P. S.—I have sent you two pipes of wine and two of brandy by a Ragusian brig, which I hope you have received. This letter was sent by sea by Rais Hadgi Sassi.

TRIPOLI, Aug. 8, 1799.

William Eaton, Esq.

Dear Sir:—There is no stability in our tyrant, he frequently issues orders in the morning and countermands them in the evening, in consequence of which the letters that go with this has been changed from this courier to an English vessel which sails today for your place notwithstanding the port is embargoed as the cruisers are fitting out, three in number, under the command of the infamous Scotch renegade, and are destined for the western ocean, probably for the Bay of Biscay on the British Channel. Peter Lisles' object is to cruise for Hamburgers, Bremeners

and Labeckers, and if he does not fall in with any vessels of the above states, I imagine he will bring in some neutral vessels, in the same manner he brought in the Danes and Swedes last cruise—pray God he may not bring in some of our vessels. I have written to Mr. O'Brien sometime ago requesting his advice in case they should but he has not thought it his duty to answer me. Patience! I can act without him; as for his raps on the knuckles, you or I need be under no apprehension from them, our Government is not like him, destitute of penetration; they will see the necessity there was for our acting in the manner we have done and all the instructions we have received from him were discretionary; they did not contain one positive order, nor was there one provision made in case the heads of the Regencies refused to accept the proposed terms, which both here and at Tunis, was the case. Pray, my dear sir, what would have been the consequence had I been detained one month in Tunis, waiting for a conveyance from thence here? The immortal Campbell arrived here on the 6th of May. Do you imagine that had our affairs been unsettled when Portugal concluded her treaty here, and these pirates by that means had the straits' mouth open for their cruisers to range the whole western ocean, that we could then have settled with them for $18,000. Believe me sir, we would not have done it for twice the sum, and I consider myself peculiarly fortunate that you sent the Sophia with me, and I bear testimony, both to God and mammon, that you therein have done your duty. In the name of God what sacrifice have we made. The stores alone could not have been brought to Tripoli for less than $16,000, a brig of 10 or 12 guns would have cost the United States $25,000 more, all expenses included; the whole of which I evaded by paying the above sum $1,500 in bribes, not mentioning the risk and other contingencies; and had we given the Bashaw of Tripoli a cruiser pray how could we with propriety have evaded giving the Bey of Tunis another much larger? I make no

manner of doubt but our conduct will be approved of by Government, but should it not—which, by the by, I should be very sorry for—I have a consolation in my own breast, I know I have acted with rectitude, my conscience accuses me with no neglect of duty, I am happy in my own conduct, and I dispise the insinuations and aspersions of my enemies. I beg leave to repeat that I confide in your writing to our Government whatever I may inform you worthy of notice. I have only had one opportunity to write since the departure of the Sophia; my orders to write once a month, but it is impossible as there is no conveyance, and therefore at the foot of all your letters I beg you will mention the date when you heard from me last, and inform them that Cathcart has written, that all is well at Tripoli. Nothing extraordinary has happened since I wrote you last. I have had another visit from the Bashaw who pretends a great deal of friendship for me, but there is no confidence to be placed in him; he would sacrifice his mother, if she interfered with his interest, and he is as capricious as lady fortune herself. I have nothing more to add but to assure you of the real esteem with which I have the honor to subscribe myself your sincere friend and

Brother exile,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

Wm. Eaton, Esq., Tunis.

TRIPOLI, Aug. 12, 1799.

Wm. Eaton, Esq., Tunis.

Dear Sir:—I received yours of the 9th of June with the annexed postscripts of the 23rd, and 24th, also on the 22nd July I had written you a note in haste by a cruiser that was said to be bound to your place, but after the consuls had made out their different passports the Bashaw ordered the port to be embargoed, and three more cruisers to fit out in

consequence of which I had my letters returned and put them on board an English vessel, which sailed the 1st of August. I am exceedingly pleased that you have paid the money to the Moors at Tunis and the Bashaw has information that he has received a letter from Hadgi Mahamoud Ben Suliman at Algiers, which informs him that the bills I drew upon our consul there are paid. We have therefore now fulfilled our stipulations with this Regency and I have got a receipt from the Bashaw that he has no demands whatever upon the United States. What could have detained the Polacca at Algiers until the 15th of April, when she might have sailed before we left Algers I can not conceive —unless she was waiting for a cargo—and I presume Mr. O'Brien will be accountable to our Government for detaining such a number of men so long upon such high wages. If you sent your dispatches by land time enough for O'Brien to send them by the Polacca, the brig Sophia being sent to Lisbon will not interfere with our arrangements at Tunis, but if not, she ought to have been dispatched by all means with the necessary information for our Government, in order that the stores may be forwarded in due season, for I am persuaded that if they do not arrive within the limited time, you will be obliged to make a considerable sacrifice for the same reason that Mr. Barlow was obliged to promise the Crescent to Hassan Bashaw; nine months will soon expire, and our friend Francis is not very quick in his motions, especially when Indian traders are concerned. The commissions of the Dey or the Bacries might have been forwarded to Lisbon via Spain, and the brass guns, which ought to be brought to Algiers, could have been commissioned for in England by Mr. Smith or Bulkeley of Lisbon. The Bey's demand of jewels and a cruiser of 32 guns, and his orders to you to quit the kingdom in three days if you did not comply with his demand, will serve to show our Government for the future what reliance ought to be placed on O'Brien's most potent "Dey of Algiers," and in what manner we may

suppose he uses his influence with the other Barbary States. The letter I received at Algiers for the Bashaw of Tripoli, Farfara informs me was merely complimentary, and I make no doubt that the one we delivered to the Bey of Tunis was of no greater consequence. When I forward a copy of our negotiation with Tripoli to you, you will be informed how I was treated here, and will judge whether the interference of the most potent Dey has not rather served to embarrass us with the eastern Regencies. This I am certain, that if our Government does not order her agents to cultivate the friendship of the reigning Prince, for the time being in the usual way, that is by giving occasionally presents to them, they had better have an open war at once, and send some of our frigates to protect our commerce in those seas; at any rate our trade in the Mediterranean will never be upon a respectable footing unless our vessels of war make their appearance in Barbary at least once a year. The United States has a marine force equal to the defense of their commerce against the depredations of the whole Barbary States. I therefore can not see that our commerce in the Mediterranean will be more liable to the depredations of these pirates, on the conclusion of a general peace, even should the islands of this sea fall into the hands of the great tyrants of Europe, than the commerce of the Danes, Swedes and Dutch. If we are a nation of Quakers that has resolved to put up with every insult and imposition rather than redress our grievances by force of arms, let us feed those people's avarice and acquiesce to all their unjust demands be they ever so great. But if we have souls of men who are worthy of enjoying the privileges of citizens of the United States, let us repel by force, and let these Barbarans see that we are not destitute of the means to chastise their arrogance whenever the burden they are continually heaping upon us becomes too heavy for us to bear. Had the United States acted as the Portuguese have done here, it would have put the country to less expense and it would have

established our peace on an honorable and more permanent basis; but while our business is transacted in Barbara by limbs of the Mosaic law, we may expect nothing but dishonorable terms, exorbitant charges and deception—they play into each others hands most effectually. Mr. Farfara has received from the United States by means of the Bacries $2,200, although he has not rendered the United States the least service otherwise than by advancing money, which any other broker would have done, and upon as good terms, and would have been very glad of the job. On my arrival here he, like a pusillanimous scoundrel, wrote me a letter imploring me for the love of God not to mention his name to the Bashaw, as it would be ruinous to him and detrimental to our affairs. I never saw him until I had delivered the consular presents, when all the difficulty was surmounted he came like a Jerry Sneak and offered his services. And yet this fellow says he expects a thousand dollars. I told him that I had not the power to make such liberal presents of the public money, that whenever I asked him to serve me he might depend that I would pay him for it, but not 'till he had rendered my nation a service that might bear some proportion to the reward. He said that he would write to Bacri, and he made no doubt that he would pay him, as he had written to him to take care of the interests of the United States and a pretty way he goes about it. What impertinence. Yet I have had this Christ-killing puppy and all his family in my house out of town ever since the 10th of June, and am seemingly on the best terms with him, as I am sensible that although he can be of no service to us in difficult cases, he might injure us essentially in case of any of our vessels being brought in as the Danes and Swedes were. Don't imagine that this man's character is worse than his fraternity; on the contrary I think he is one of the best of them—they are all alike, they are a kind of negative enemies, if I may be allowed the term, that don't suppose you pay them for any service they can render you, but to hinder

them from doing you a private injury when opportunity serves or from embroiling your national affairs by false representations; however, I am firmly resolved never to employ one of them in the minutest affair where either the honor or interest of the United States is concerned, but shall treat them with the respect due to the brokers in amity with America, the rest of them are of little moment. If our consul at Algiers thinks proper to make Mr. Farfara a present for nothing, I am by no means responsible for his conduct, but I think he has received enough already. I took a country seat out of town on the 3rd of June, as I could not live in the city on account of the excessive heat, a report at the time prevailing that the plague was at Ben Gazze, which was a fact, but it has not spread to the westward. I pay $75 per annum for it, and $120 for the American house in town, which makes the annual rent amount to $195, which I shall charge the United States with, and if the Government makes any objections to the payment of it, which I do not expect, I will, pay the rent out of my small pittance, as I would retrench one meal a day sooner than remain in the city during the three months; and if we should be visited by the plague, which God forbid, it would be impossible to procure an assylum. We can by no means subsist upon our salary, it is not adequate to the expenses of our table and servants; why there should be so great a difference between the salaries annexed to the Consulates of Algiers, Tunis and Tripoli I can not imagine, when we are obliged to be at the same expense, and provisions of every denomination and servant's wages here, are so much higher than they are at Algiers. By law we are entitled to an outfit, for Mr. Pickering himself says in his letter to Famin "that the offices partake very little of the duties of consuls, which strictly relate only to commercial affairs, whereas the duties of the consuls in the Barbary States are strictly political; they are in fact rather Ministers than Consuls." And now, sir, if we do the duty of Ministers why should we not enjoy the rights and emolu-

ments annexed to the office? Ought not the reward bear some proportion to the service we render our country? As you intend going to America I will, with your permission, give you full power to act for me and to receive both outfit and augmentation of pay should any be allowed.

I can't see how the French and Spanish fleets escaped the British Admirals, Bridgeport and St. Vincents, unless the British Government, finding that the French would not come out of Brest nor the Spaniards out of Cadiz while their fleets were off said ports, had given orders to their Admirals to retire in order to give them an opportunity to put to sea, knowing that they had it in their power to send a stronger fleet into the Mediterranean than the combined fleet of France and Spain, not doubting but they would risk the relief of Bonaparte. I should not wonder if the French and Spaniards would be let to pass so far to the eastward before the British would pursue them, that they would not have a friendly port to enter in case of a defeat. The only thing the British aim at is to destroy entirely the marine of France and Spain, and should the French be so fortunate as to land 30,000 or 40,000 men at Alexandria, what would the British care? Let the Turks and Russians stop their progress if they can; the British would inevitably destroy the whole fleet which is all they aim at. I would be glad if you would inform me of all the news you hear, as the Bashaw sends to me the arrival of every courier. A report was circulated here a few days ago that the French had landed an army of 30,000 men at Bona, but I have put it in quarantine. When you send your letters by land please to send or give them to Ciddi Hamida ben Mashuni Ben Ali Casem, vikil of Tripoli at Tunis, and he will send them to his father who is vikil of Tunis here, and is a friend of mine. Mrs. Cathcart joins me in her best wishes for your temporal and eternal welfare, and hopes you will present

her compliments to Dr. Shaw, Mr. Tulin's family and all friends. I am, dear sir, with sincerity

Your friend and humble servant,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

Through what channel were the inhabitants of St. Peter redeemed?

Who made the truce between Sicily and Tunis? Has the Portuguese a truce with Tunis, as it is here reported, and how was it effected?

Has the British declared war against Algiers? If they have what were their reasons for doing so?

Sent by a courier by land.

TRIPOLI, Aug. 16th, 1799.

Hon. Timothy Pickering.

Dear Sir:—In mine of the 9th ult. which went inclosed to our consul at Alicant, I had the honor of informing you that I drew bills upon Tunis for $10,000, and on Algiers for $6,000 more, being the whole sum we were in arrears to this Regency. Mr. Eaton in his of the 9th of June has informed me that he has paid the above sum, and the Bashaw of Tripoli has informed me that his ambassador at Algiers, Hadgi Mahamoud Ben Suliman, has written to him that Mr. O'Brien has accepted and paid the bills which I drew upon him in favor of the said Ben Suliman. I am surprised that I have not had a line from Mr. O'Brien since my arrival here, although I have written him several letters which require answers. The affairs of the United States with this Regency are now entirely settled, and I have received a receipt from the Bashaw in full of all demands from them. Nothing worthy of notice has occurred since my last, and I

only send this to inform you all is well. You must not wonder that you hear but seldom direct from me, as I assure you opportunities do not frequently offer, but in compliance with my instructions I forward an account of every transaction worthy of notice to our consuls at Algiers and Tunis, who will only be doing their duty in sending you a copy of them. I imagine a hint from you on that subject when you write to them next might be of service. Mr. Eaton has informed me that he will send you a detailed account of Campbell's expedition against Tripoli which I forwarded to him. There is no mention of citizen Bonaparte here, which makes me fear that he is successful in Egypt. The Bashaw has sent a cruiser to Derne, the eastern province of this Regency, which is about 120 leagues from Alexandria, to enquire whether this man of blood is still at Cairo. When she returns probably we may hear some news from that quarter. Mr. Eaton informs me that the Bey of Tunis has made fresh demands for jewels. It is my opinion that when the stores are sent to Tunis they should be accompanied by two frigates; this you may depend, sir, would have a favorable effect, and would work upon the Bey like electricity. These barbarians say that they have often heard of American frigates, but they have never seen any; the conclusion they draw is that we either have none or would sacrifice considerable sums sooner than send them into the Mediterranean, but on their seeing them in their own roads they would conclude that we had resolved that we would no longer be imposed on, and therefore would become more reasonable in their demands. Had I arrived at Tripoli in the United States frigate, I should have concluded our affairs here in a very different manner to what I was obliged to do—with barbarians we must enforce our arguments either with cannon balls or bags of dollars. Our commerce will never be upon a respectable footing unless our vessels of war occasionally make their appearance in the Mediterranean, and the sending them here, should a general peace

soon take place, would no doubt cause much debate and be strongly opposed by many of our politicians, who would sooner choose to sacrifice our national honor than risk the expense of a small armament to be at the disposal of Government, in order to check the incorrigible insolence of the dispoilers of our commerce. I will endeavor to forward a copy of my journal to your office every six months, if opportunity offers, and in the mean time beg leave to subscribe myself with respect and esteem,

Your very humble servant,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

P. S. The salaries of the consuls of Tunis and Tripoli are inadequate to their bare subsistance—I hope you will take this affair into serious consideration. We are certainly entitled to an outfit by law, as the duty of our office here is not merely commercial, but political. Inclosed you will receive a literal translation of the articles as they now stand in our treaty with Tunis—a list of the coins of Tripoli with their comparative value.

TRIPOLI, Aug. 20, 1799.

Richard O'Brien, Esq.

In mine of the 20th of May I informed you that Marat Rais, the English renegade, had sent his present back to the American house, saying he would not dirty his hands with it, as I considered that the affront was offered more directly to the Bashaw than to me, I gave the presents to Farfara, and desired him to return them to his excellency immediately, believing that he had done so, I never troubled my head any more about them.

Friday, 16th of August, a messenger came for the American passports for Marad Rais and Omar Rais; I had them ready and sent them with the tops, etc. Marad Rais, on the 17th, sent them back saying that he would not have them,

the objection was made to the paragraph inclosed between the crotchet, in the inclosed passport. He said no other nation had any such clause in theirs, and of course that any innovation was inadmissable. I sent him back the passports, and told the tergiman to inform Marad Rais that any representation relative to passports, or any other public instrument, must come direct from the Bashaw, that I could not listen to any other person whatever. At 4 p. m. the Bashaw came to the American house and asked me why I had inserted the aforesaid clause. I informed him that the passports are printed and that the Government of the United States had inserted it and not me. That our passports at Algiers and Tunis are word for word the same. "Yes," interrupted the Bashaw, "but I suppose it is specified by treaty with them, here your treaty has no such articles." I observed that there was no occasion for mentioning every trifle in our treaty, that our treaty was concluded on the same footing as the most favored nation. "Well," said he, "will you make your passports out the same as the English and Spaniards do theirs?" I said to oblige his excellency, that for the present cruise, I would make them out as the British do theirs, but that I must inform my Government and receive their orders on the subject. "Very well," said he, "inform them that the English, and almost all other nations, has the forementioned articles in their treaty, yet not one of them has it mentioned in their passports, that the United States has no such article in their treaty with me, and that the above clause is inadmissable in their passports. At present you do not oblige me as much as you do yourselves. Marad Rais has declared in public that the Swedish charge-des-affairs has said that the above clause in the American passport is highly dishonorable to this Regency, and advised the said Marad to lay them before me and my officers; they have all said that the Americans ought not to enjoy greater privileges than every other nation at peace with this Regency, and Marad has consequently declared in

public that if you don't change them that he will go to sea without any. Now you know what a disagreeable thing it would be to me should he make this a pretext to send American vessels in here as he did the Danes. It is certain if he should I would clear them directly, but then it would be very unpleasant. I only want him to send our enemies in here—I am friends with the Americans and I hope I always shall be. What shall we do about the presents you returned to me yesterday by the Jewish Caid?" The consul knows, answers Farfara, who was present during the whole of this conversation, and has been in my house with his family since the 10th of June. I know nothing about the presents answered I, when I arrived here I gave all the presents to his excellency, he divided them as he pleased. Marad Rais therefore has not insulted me—but the Bashaw. "It is true," answered his excellency, "I have received several affronts from him—they are all written down—his time will come by and by, but it is now my interest to take no notice; he is going out upon a cruise in order to content him, and to hinder him from troubling American vessels, should he meet with any, I will give him $200 out of my own pocket." I thanked his excellency for the kindness he was pleased to express for the Americans, and told him that as he behaved so liberal, and showed so much friendship for my nation that it would not be just for him to be at any loss, and that I would order Farfara to refund him the $200. He thanked me, said he would not forget it, drank some lemonade and wished me good evening. If a proper confidence could be placed in the Bashaw, our affairs would seem to be on a tolerable good footing here, but I do not believe a word he says, although he has used me ever since our affairs were settled here with a great deal of respect, but for all that I should be sorry to see any of our vessels brought in here; if there should, I have asked your advice how to act in mine of July the 7th, but have not received an answer any more

than I have to all the letters I have written to you since I have left Algiers. I am, sir,

Your humble servant,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

P. S. The Bashaw does not know that I am informed of his having received $13,500 from the Danes for his clearing their vessels, possibly he would wish to clear some American vessels in the same manner

Marad sailed in company with a cruiser this day for the western ocean in search of Lubeckers, Bremeners and Hamburgers. Aug. 21st. I wrote this in a hurry yesterday in order to send it by the prize sent in here by Carapagiak but was too late. I hope, sir, you do not neglect sending copies of my letters to the Secretary of State and Mr. Smith, as I have no opportunity to write from here via Tunis.

TRIPOLI, Aug. 23rd, 1799.

William Eaton, Esq.,

My Dear Sir:—Inclosed are two letters, one for the Secretary of State and the other for our consul general at Algiers—the last is open; I will be obliged to you or the Doctor to copy it and send it, with the one directed to Col. Pickering, inclosed in your next dispatches. Mr. O'Brien's letter you will seal and forward to him by the first opportunity. I have no news whatever to inform you of at present, only, that an Algerine cruiser, commanded by Carapagiak, has taken four prizes in the Gulf of Venice supposed to be Imperial; one of them put in here for water; she was loaded with oil and soap. If Mr. Famin will sell his little ship he has out in his garden for a reasonable sum, please buy her for me—I want to make it a present to the Bashaw's son. You will excuse me for all the trouble I put you to and

believe me to be without duplicity, your sincere friend and
Humble servant,
JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

Via Tunis by land.

TRIPOLI, Sep. 9, 1799.

William Eaton, Tunis.

My Dear Sir:—Inclosed is a copy of our negotiation with Tripoli as forwarded to the Secretary of State by the brig Sophia—you will peruse it and forward it to Mr. Smith at Lisbon by the first safe conveyance. You will naturally see the propriety of my not sending a detailed account to O'Brien at the time an ambassador was going to be dispatched from here to Algiers, lest he should enter into altercation with him as he did by Ingraham's account, (vide his letters to O'Brien dated May, 1798, and O'Brien's answer to Ingraham dated July 12th, 1798), with the Rais of the Marine who was then at Algiers, in which answer O'Brien denies having had any conversation with said Rais. I have been exceedingly ill with a bilious complaint since I wrote you last; I am now under a course of physic and therefore am not able to write to Mr. Smith; you will please to make an apology for me, and when you answer this give me your candid opinion of the inclosed negotiation which is copied by Mr. McDonogh. On the 23 ultimo arrived here Hadgi Ben Suliman from Algiers, and on the 25th I received a very impertinent letter from our consul general; among other things he says he has been informed by David Bacri that Farfara has written him that the affairs of the United States were settled at Tripoli for $17,000. Farfara could not have written any such thing as he made the acts out himself, a copy of which I sent to you sometime ago; he says he will give me a copy of the letters he wrote to Bacri with the translation

in Italian for my justification, and to show the malice of my ci-devant ami O'Brien. If Mr. O'Brien has made any such representation to Government he will be foiled with his own weapons, for in the Bashaw's letter to the President of the United States he says he has settled with me for $18,000, and in his receipt which I have by me under his seal is specified the same. Capt. Geddes and Mr. McDonogh signed the original of the inclosed and know every particular as well as I do. The contingent expenses amounted to $1,500. McDonogh got $800, the Rais of the Marine $200 more and Farfara in his account current accounts for $500 more, the whole sum expended and which Farfara paid for by order. These people are all alive and can be interrogated at any time. The manner I took to pay the above sums, excludes me from the least ground for suspicion for in the presence of Capt. Geddes, Mr. McDonogh and Farfara, I gave the Bashaw 2,000 sequins which I received at Tunis, which were here valued at $3,500 only, for $10,000 I drew upon you, and for $6,000 upon O'Brien, which makes the sum of $19,500 the sum expended. Notwithstanding the above, I assure you it makes me very unhappy to have anything to do with a person who could be capable of fabricating such a palpable falsehood without the least ground or shadow of probability. As soon as my health permits, I will write to Mr. O'Brien a very sharp letter on the subject. In Mr. O'Brien's letter to Dr. McDonogh he says among other things "Consul Cathcart has his views in what he does." In the name of God what views could I have had but the settlement of our affairs in the best terms obtainable? I dispise his pitiful assertions. The vessel in which Hadgai Suliman made his voyage to Algiers was a vessel bought by a Spaniard at Malta; she was freighted by the Bashaw here last April for $200 per month; she performed her voyage and on her return, in order to save the freight, she was seized and condemned on pretense that her papers were not in order, and that the

Spanish Minister at Malta had not sufficient power to grant her a passport or to put her under Spanish colors; some of her crew are delivered to the Spanish charge-des-affairs, and some are made slaves. You see what an infamous pirate our monarch is and what can we expect from him but villainy. On the 4th inst. arrived a boat here with ten men the crew of an Imperial ship which foundered at sea. They gave their papers and a bag of dollars to the Rais of the Marine who has denied the receipt of them, and the Bashaw has made them all slaves, and notwithstanding they had been nine days in an open boat with very little provisions and water, they were sent to work the next day. I am not able to write any more at present. Dear sir,

Your sincere friend,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

P. S. It is said here, but not authenticated, that Sir Sydney Smith has taken Alexandria and that Russians and Grand Signore's troops have defeated Bonaparte.

TRIPOLI, Oct. 6th, 1799.

Wm. Eaton, Esq.

Sir:—My patience was spun out to the last thread expecting answers to mine of the following dates: One of June 22nd, four of the 12th, 14th, 15th and 22d July, three of August 8th, 12th and 23rd and one of the 9th of September inclosing two letters for Consul O'Brien, one for the Secretary of State, and a copy of our negotiation with Tripoli, to be forwarded to Mr. Smith on the arrival of the English Tartan with yours of the 25th ult. I must own that I was greatly surprised that you did not at least acknowledge the receipt of them. Halifa Caigon informed me that you are in good health, and how or why I have been deprived of the pleasure of hearing from you I cannot account for, I not

having received a line from you since yours of the 9th of June, which I received with the annexed postscripts of the 23rd and 24th on the 22nd of July last. On the 28th ult. arrived a Ragusian prize cargo condemned. On the 2nd arrived an Imperial brig a prize, as yet no adjustment has taken place. On the 5th arrived Marat Rais with three Danish prizes—he has taken four—the other has not yet arrived. On the 5th arrived a British brig of war from Palermo with Mr. Lucas on board. No news has yet transpired—by the next opportunity you may expect to hear more fully from

Your obedient servant,
JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

P. S.—Please to inform your correspondents that all is well at Tripoli at present. God knows how long we may remain so, as our monarch may, with as much propriety, capture Americans as well as Danes, Imperials and Ragusians.

On the 4th inst. arrived a Russian Tartan with three chaoux on board, one for each of the Regencies; you may expect her in Tunis about the time you receive this. Adieu.

TRIPOLI IN BARBARY, Oct. 14th, 1799.

Hon. Wm. Smith, Minister Plenipotentiary from the United States of America at Lisbon.

Dear Sir:—Want of opportunity has prevented me from having the pleasure of forwarding to you a circumstantial detail of the political transactions of this Regency since my arrival here, which are wholly confined to Commodore Campbell's expedition, and the depredations committed by the cruisers of this Regency on the commerce of the nations with whom they are at peace, and who have paid them considerable sums to insure their friendship; a detail of the

arrangements which took place on my arrival here I have forwarded to Mr. Eaton to forward to you, which you will receive, no doubt, in due season. Every other transaction worthy of notice I have communicated to Messrs. O'Brien and Eaton, who I hope have sent you a copy of our correspondence according to my request, as through them is the only channel of communication at present open by the inclosed letters, which I have left open for your perusal; you will be informed of the little faith which ought to be placed on the promises of the Bashaw, he is a venial wretch, destitute of every honorable sentiment, exceedingly ambitious to make as great a figure as the Bashaws of Algiers and Tunis, without having the means, and contrary to the rules followed by his predecessors he assumes a great deal of grandeur at his court, has a large number of body guards richly dressed, and keeps about 1,500 men of different denominations in pay to guard his person, castle and miserable city. This occasions a great deal of expense which his revenues are by no means sufficient to defray, more especially at present as the commerce of this Regency is entirely ruined by the existing war, and the Bashaw's impositions on the Jews, who compose the commercial body of this Regency. How then is this tyrant to procure the means to support his importance? To reduce his expenses he can not bear the idea of and it would be instant death to any of his vassals even to intimate such a thing. His evil counsellors advise him to commit depredations on the commerce of the nations with whom he is at peace, his cruisers sally forth and capture every vessel they fall in with, and they are sent in here, their cargoes condemned, and vessels detained for several weeks upon various false pretenses. In addition to the depredations contained in the inclosed copies the Bashaw, last April, freighted a Spanish vessel to go to Algiers and Bona, and from thence to return here; he agreed to pay $200 per month for said vessel until he should discharge her from his services; she returned here on the 23d of August and in order to save the

freight, was seized and condemned on pretense that her papers were not in order—she having been purchased at Malta—and that the Spanish minister there had not sufficient power to grant said vessel a passport, or to put her under Spanish colors; some of her crew are delivered and some are made slaves. Sept. 28th arrived a Ragusian brig loaded with barilla and 60 bales of dry goods, value $30,000 a prize to one of the Bashaw's cruisers; the cargo was immediately condemned, although her papers were in perfect order; the Bashaw refused the Ragusian charge-des-affairs an audience on the subject, and sent a chaoux to inform him that the Ragusians had not made him a present for some time, but that now he had helped himself. This vessel loaded at Messina and was bound to Candia. Oct. 2, arrived an Imperial brig a prize to the same cruiser that took the Ragusian. She is loaded with oil, silk and almonds from Meisina, bound to Triest. The Danish consul who is charged with the affairs of the Emperor demanded an audience but was refused; the Bashaw assigns no other reason for taking the vessel but that the Algerines take Imperial vessels with the Grand Signor's firman, and that he has as good a right to take them as the Algerines. On the 5th, arrived Marad Rais with three Danish prizes—he has captured four, one has not yet arrived—on pretense of their being bound to France; they have been permitted to hoist their colors but if the consul does not redeem them with a sum of money, as he was obliged to do the others, their cargoes will be condemned and the vessels will be detained for a considerable time. The affairs of the United States with this Regency are entirely settled, our arrears are paid, and I have received a receipt in full of all demands from the Bashaw, who treats me with so much friendship that he is always begging some trifle or other from me. He has visited me thrice and says he is the friend of the United States, but I believe him not—you may depend, sir, if the United States do not send some of our frigates into the Mediterranean our commerce never

will be upon a respectable footing in these seas, and we will be continually exposed to the depredations of these pirates; if we put up with the first insult we may expect a repetition, and ultimately we will be obliged to send an armed force which had we done in time we would have intimidated Tripoli, at least from committing depredations on our commerce. I received your esteemed favor of March 13th on May 31st and return you thanks for your kind congratulations, which I beg leave to reciprocate on your new appointment as envoy to the Ottoman court, and sincerely hope you may meet with success in the object of your embassy, which from the local situation of our country I presume will only extend to a commercial treaty. Should you take Tripoli in your route I will be happy to accommodate you with the best this city affords, which I assure you forms a disagreeable contrast with the markets of America and Europe. Inclosed I send you some account of the commerce and revenue of this Regency, and beg you will forward the inclosed duplicates to the Department of State. I am, dear sir, with respect and esteem,

Yours,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

TRIPOLI, Oct. 14th, 1799.

Thomas Bulkley, Esq., Consul of United States of America, Lisbon.

Dear Sir:—Inclosed with this is a packet for Mr. Smith, you will please to deliver it to him if he is at Lisbon, if not you will be so good as to open the packet and forward a copy of the inclosed letters to the Secretary of State, and deposit the originals in your office until the arrival of Mr. Smith. By so doing you will render a service to Government and confer an obligation on

Your obedient servant,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

Inclosed in Mr. Smith's packet. I forwarded two copies of letters to Mr. Pickering, one of July 9th the other of August 16th, a literal translation of the articles as they now stand in our treaty with Tunis, a list of the marine force of Tripoli with their comparative value, and a short account of the commerce of said Regency, and the revenues of the Bashaw with the price currents of the imports and exports in Italian.

TRIPOLI, BARBARY, Oct. 24, 1799.

Thos. Appleton, Esq., Consul for United States at Leghorn.

My Dear Sir:—Since my arrival here I have not had an opportunity of sending you my respects, but at present embrace this via Triest. On my arrival I found the agent of the United States, Mr. Ingraham, had left Tripoli in February, and that the United States were threatened with a war in consequence of the non-arrival of the stores stipulated by treaty, my likewise coming here without them, had not a very favorably appearance; at first the Bashaw refused to receive me, but after a good deal of trouble and anxiety, I settled our affairs with this Regency in full of all demands —for stores and a brig of war which was promised, or said to be promised—for the sum of $18,000, not including contingencies which amounted to $1,500 more. Said sums have since been paid and the Bashaw has now no demands against the United States, and treats me at all times with the greatest civility. You must have been very disagreeably situated since I had the pleasure of hearing of your safe arrival at Leghorn. Pray how were you used by our *ci devant amis,* the French? An intercourse will be opened very soon between this place and Leghorn, when I hope to have the pleasure of hearing often from you. I request you will take a gazette annually for me and send them to me when opportunity serves. I will endeavor to indemnify you for the expense attending the same, and will be indebted to you for the trouble. The goods that best answer this market at present are coffee, sugar, pepper, and spices of all sorts,

cochineal,Campechy linens, thin broad cloths and some hardware. Returns are made from here in senna, wool, barilla, ostrich feathers and madder. I am, dear sir, with respect and esteem,

Yours,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

P. S. Pray, sir, what conveyance have you from Leghorn to the United States? From here we have none. When you write to the Department of State please let them know we are well at Tripoli. Adieu.

Conrad F. Wagner, Esq., Consul for United States of America, Triest.

Sir:—Since my arrival here I am happy to inform you that I have settled the affairs of the United States amicably with this Regency, and at present they have no pretensions whatever to make upon our nation. I should be indebted to you to inform me what conveyance you have from your place to Lisbon and America, and if any American vessels frequent your port. When you write to the Department of State please let our Government know, that at the date of this letter, we are in perfect tranquility in Tripoli. I am, sir, with great respect

Your very humble servant,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

Tripoli, Oct. 27, 1799.

Wm. Eaton, Esq., Tunis.

My Dear Sir:—Rais Hassassi arrived on the 21st inst., and the same day the courier extraordinary, which you mention, put your packet into my hands all right—I accordingly paid him liberally. This courier had gone from Tunis

to Susa where he either found or waited for the brig, which of course occasioned my not receiving yours in due season. On the 22nd Rais Hassassi delivered me your letters down to the 21st ultimo, with the cloth and other sundries all as per invoice and in excellent order. Hassassi has behaved very genteel upon the whole, and says he is sorry that you had not informed him that you wanted to ship some oil and wheat, that if you had he would have shipped it as his own property. I asked him what freight I was to pay? He said what I pleased, that at present he would be content with a bottle of rum, which I gave him, and intend to give him twenty dollars the next time I see him. I find by your account that I am indebted to you $2,588.17, for said sum I have inclosed the following bills: One drawn by me on the Hon. Timothy Pickering, payable to your order 60 days after date for $1,000, Spanish, said bill bearing date at Tripoli in Barbary the 5th day of Nov., 1799; one drawn on same, payable 150 days after date, for $500, Spanish, bearing date at said place the 10th day of Nov., 1799; one drawn by Sig. Leon Farfara upon Joseph Cohen Bacri, of Algiers, payable to your order upon sight for the sum of $1,088.17, being the whole of the balance due as per your last account current of the 21st of September. This bill which I borrowed from Farfara is much better than one of mine, as his credit is better he being more known; you therefore can negotiate it with greater ease. The bills upon Mr. Pickering I would not have drawn payable out of any particular fund, nor out of my growing subsistance, if you had not used the precaution to tell me not, for neither would be a lawful tender in payment, neither would they be negotiable, although in Barbary they would have passed. I can not draw said bills upon sight as Messrs. Willings and Francis are my agents for settling all my accounts at the seat of Government, and for what I know they may have received for me, the credit of my former accounts, in said case I having no funds in the hands of Government, my bills would be liable to be pro-

tested, and if they were not it would be a liberty I should not wish to take. In the present case, on the first of next January I shall have six months pay due, and on the 1st of April three months more, it will therefore be impossible that they should not be duly honored, as in the manner I have drawn the bills the money will be due some days before the bills are presented for payment. If any arrangement has rendered it necessary for you to have the money in Barbary, send the bills back to me and I will give a bill on Algiers for the whole amount, payable the first of January, 1800, or before if it will make any material difference to you. The second and third of exchange I will forward on to you by some other conveyance for fear of accidents. You will please to let me know as soon as may be if you keep my bills upon Government, that I may advise Mr. Pickering of it in due season. The arrangements you have made are perfectly agreeable to me, I believe you have had a great deal more trouble than profit—how they will turn out here I can not tell yet, the Bashaw has taken the bale of superfine cloth. The Jew says the londrinas will yield about 25 per cent. profit and that the shalloons, he is afraid, will not sell at all. You shall be duly informed of the result of this first adventure, the colors are excellent and if ever you send any more here send londrinas and coarse cloth but neither superfine or shalloons, and make out two invoices one of the real value and the other with the addition of 25 per cent. ad valorem for my Government. Give me leave, sir, to return you my most sincere thanks for the trouble you have taken to procure the articles I took the liberty to commission for. I can not return the compliment for here we have literally nothing, but on any future occasion should I be so fortunate as to have it in my power to serve you, I hope you will command me without reserve. In a former letter I informed you that I expected some things out in the vessel with the stores for Tunis, if they come you are welcome to what part you please of them. Mrs. Cathcart

presents her compliments to you and thanks you for the tea, cheese, coral necklace and bells—little Eliza is very much pleased with them; she has two teeth and is in good health. Although I have not a copy of our treaty with Tunis, I knew of the inclosed article of which you sent me a copy, but supposed it alluded only to the retailing of liquors, for to my certain knowledge the Bey has allowed whole cargoes of that commodity to be sold to the best bidder. I am very sorry you have been troubled with it; the wine will serve your house, and in the brandy I wish you had Famin and Azulai both embalmed. Do what you please with the wine and brandy, but I would not advise you to sell it for fear of some of your enemies making a handle of it to do you an injury. If it is necessary to destroy the liquors do not hesitate a moment, and charge me with the amount in your next; if you are at any loss by the wheat and oil likewise charge me with it, the trouble is sufficient without your being put to any expense. I am, dear sir, with esteem,

Your friend and humble servant,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART,

P. S. I send you some bills of lading—in a few days you will hear from me again.

TRIPOLI, Oct. 30th, 1799.

Richard O'Brien, Algiers.

Sir:—In mine of the 20th of August I communicated to you the necessity I was under of changing our passports for Marad and Omar Raises, which you recollect I consented to only until I should receive superior orders; since then I have applied to the Bashaw to permit me to issue the printed passports without effect, he has answered as before that our treaty shall be on the same footing as the most favored nations respectively, but no nation having the clause in dispute inserted in their passports I have thought it advisable

to drop the affair until I receive your positive orders how to act. As a proof of the above I beg leave to inclose for your perusal the British and Spanish passports, which are the two nations most respected here at present. The reason Marad Rais objected to the forementioned clause was evidently to have a pretext to send American vessels in here to compare their passports, as he would have gone to sea without any had I not changed them; that the Bashaw encouraged Marad is visible no doubt with the same intent. Consider, sir, what an injury it would be to the commerce of the United States, should any of their vesels be sent in here exclusive of the damage the proprietors of said vessel or vessels would suffer by detention, besides you may depend they would be plundered; and you know, sir, the clause in dispute is of no real utility, as the cruisers of Algiers notwithstanding that clause send as many men as they think proper on board the merchant ships of every nation with whom they are at peace; nay, I will venture to affirm that there is not one of the Raises that knows such a clause exists either in our treaty or passports. I therefore could not consider myself justifiable in running any risk, and of two evils, in my opinion, I have chosen the least. In mine of the above date I informed you that Marad Rais sailed on the same day, bound for the western ocean. On the 5th of this month he returned with three Danish prizes—he has taken four, one has not yet arrived—their cargoes have been condemned and discharged here on pretense of their being French property. The vessels are laying here waiting for the arrival of the fourth vessel which has not yet been heard of. Sept. the 28th. Arrived a Ragusian brig loaded with barilla and 60 bales of dry goods, value $30,000, a prize to one of the Bashaw's cruisers; her cargo was immediately condemned 'tho her papers were in perfect order. The Bashaw refused the Ragusian charge-des-affairs an audience on the subject, and sent a chaoux to inform him that the Ragusians had not made him a present for some time, but that now he had help-

ed himself—this vessel loaded at Messina bound to Candia. Oct. 2nd. Arrived an Imperial brig a prize to the same cruiser that took the Ragusians, she is loaded with oil, silk, cotton and almonds from Messina bound to Triest. The Bashaw assigns no other reason for taking this vessel but that the Algerines take Imperial vessels with the Grand Signore's passports or firman, and that he has as good a right to take them as his brother of Algiers. From the tenor of the Bashaw's conduct to other nations, have we not reason to suppose that he will make use of the slightest pretext to commit depredations on our commerce? You probably will say that our peace being guaranteed by Algiers will insure us from every insult. I hope it may, but I assure you, sir, it is a point in much doubt with me, and my reason for not placing much confidence in the promises of our friends at Algiers, is because the Genoese vessel which was captured with the Dey of Algiers' passport, which occasioned a board of Admiralty being called, and your narrative to the Bashaw of Tripoli of the 25th of September, 1798, who insisted that the Bashaw of Tripoli should make restitution to the captain for said vessel and cargo; but from that day to this he has not paid one cent to the proprietors of said vessel, and Hadgi Mahamoud Ben Suliman having arrived lately from Algiers without having brought any further demand for said vessel and cargo, shows clearly that the Dey of Algiers has dropped the idea entirely; and pray, sir, have we not reason to expect the same treatment should any of our vessels be brought in here? What signifies the Dey of Algiers writing here if the Bashaw will not obey his orders? I say, sir, that if any of our vessels should be brought in here on any pretense whatever they would be plundered, and after the Bashaw has got the goods or their value in his hands he will never give them up, unless demanded by a sufficient force to compel him to it; should he refuse in such a case he would act as he did to Commodore Campbell—with a great deal of condescension. That the United States may

adopt this plan with this contemptible pirate is my fervent and constant prayer. Mr. Lucas arrived here in El Corso on the 5th, and she sailed on the 14th. Mr. Lucas remains here; he is empowered to conduct a treaty of peace for the Neapolitans—he won't succeed and in my next I will tell you why. It has proved that the sailor, who, I informed you, was an American and had turned Turk is a native of London of which I am very glad. Mr. Lucas' servant and several of the Corso's crew knew him there, although he has been some time in the United States. Two seamen belonging to the Lion came here in the ship's pinnace, which they ran away with, have turned Turks owing to the bad management of Mr. Lucas, so that there are now four English renegades here, who will all be officers in the contemptible navy of this paltry Regency. Three of the Corso's crew deserted to the castle with the same intention, but the Bashaw delivered them up on the captain promising not to punish them; which would have been the case with the Lion's people had the British consul behaved with proper dignity, and had obliged the Bashaw to comply with the stipulation contained in the 17th article of the treaty between Great Britain and this Regency. In mine of the 7th of July I requested you to procure, if possible, from the Dey of Algiers a firman declaring that should the cruisers of Tripoli capture any American vessels, that the Dey would claim them with cost and damages in consequence of our treaty being guaranteed by said Regency. I request your answer on this head as well as the other submissions I have made to you as soon as possible. You may expect to hear from me again the first opportunity interim. I am, sir,

Your humble servant,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

With this was sent a letter from Farfara to Bacri, on the cover of which I wrote the following note:—By this letter from Farfara to Bacri, Mr. O'Brien will be informed wheth-

er the affairs of the United States were settled here for $17,000 or $18,000.

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

TRIPOLI, Nov. 5, 1799.

William Eaton, Esq., Tunis.

I sympathize with you, my dear friend, on the disagreeable situation you are in, and should be happy had I it in my power to render you completely happy, which however we must never expect to be while we remain in Barbary. I hope, nay I will venture to prophesy, that your perseverance and good conduct will insure you a happy termination to the difficulties which surround you, and that ultimately you will triumph over all your enemies. I join with you in opinion that our mode of negotiation with these Regencies ought to be altered, so that the impression that we are influenced by weakness and fear should be entirely eradicated; and in my communications both to Mr. Smith and the Department of State, have recommended to Government to send the stores to Tunis under convoy of two of our largest frigates. I have likewise given it as my opinion that our commerce will never be upon a respectable footing, unless we keep some of our ships of war continually in the Mediterranean; and relative to Tripoli I have advised them to act with energy, and resent the first insult by sending two of our frigates and four boats capable of carrying a 12 pounder in each of their bows, which is a sufficient force to destroy all the cruisers of this Regency. How far the opinion of our colleague to the westward corresponds with ours I know not, neither do I know whether it would be consistent with sound policy to send a considerable force into these seas, in the present state of affairs with France. Would it not be leaving the trade on our own coast unprotected—some frigates we must inevitably keep in the West Indies. I hope by next spring we will have a sufficient number of frigates launched to answer our emergencies, and until then let us trust to Provi-

dence. I am glad you have altered your arrangements and intend sending the Doctor to America, it is by far the most proper step. Your enemies might take the opportunity of your absence to censure your conduct, if you left your post before you receive answers to your dispatches sent in the Dey and Sophia (names of vessels.) Should you resign your post I certainly should prefer Tunis to Tripoli for many reasons, and would willingly resign my post in favor of Dr. Shaw, who I assure you I much esteem and would be happy to serve. The Jews are insufferable; they suppose that the sanhedrim at Algiers are all-powerful and our connection with both, here and at Tunis, is a manifest disadvantage to the affairs of the United States. I wish we could do without them, it is neither in the power or nature of a Barbary Jew to render a Christian any service, although it often is to do them an injury, per example in a small affair. My broker has sold all the cloth to the Bashaw, 9 pieces excepted; I can not get him to make out his account, he finds some evasive answer when ever I ask him for it. Yesterday he had the presumption to give my compliments to the Bashaw and congratulate him on his recovery from a boil in my name, and to inform him that I would pay him a visit on the next day; I said nothing but this morning I sent my drogerman with the drogermen of other nations to inquire after his excellency's health, and thus disappointed sir knave, whose aim was for the Bashaw to offer to pay me for the cloth as he pleases in order to discourage me from trading for the future, he wishing to engross the whole trade of this Regency for himself and fraternity; but I am not to be duped only when I please. You are no doubt acquainted that Azulai protested my bill on O'Brien for $1,103.17, given by me in payment to Farfara for six months salary and contingent expenses, in consequence of a report prevailing that Bacri had failed, large contributors having been levied on his house both by the French and Algerines. If you know the particulars of this affair please to inform me

in your next. Bacri has written to Farfara in consequence of the said maneuver to have no further connection with said Azulai. Your humble servant was the first that put the treaty between the United States and Algiers into Englsih, I therefore knew the contents of the fourth article, but that has nothing to do with our treaty with Tripoli. In he 9th article of our treaty with Tripoli we are declared to be on the same footing as the most favored nations—respectively we are. No nation has the clause in dispute in their passport but us, although in their respective treaties it is stipulated and in ours it is not, I therefore not only have the Bashaw, but all the consuls here to combat, who say that if we have that clause inserted in our passport that they will have the same privilege. Nothing will silence the Bashaw but cannon balls, and nothing satisfy him but bags of money. Should any of our vessels of war appear here it will alter the case amazingly, he then probably may be intimidated to alter his mind. The reason Marad Rais objected to this clause was evidently to have a pretext to send American vessels in here to compare their passports, as he would have gone to sea without any had I not changed them, and you will observe that this arrangement is only to be valid until I receive superior orders, that the Bashaw encouraged Marad is visible, no doubt with the same intent. Consider, my dear sir, what injury it would be to the commerce of the United States should any of their vessels be sent in here, exclusive of the damage the proprietors of said vessel or vessels would suffer by detention; besides, you may depend, they would be plundered. I therefore of two evils have chosen the least, and can not consider myself by any means blameable. I am ordered to ask the opinion and advice of our consul general in all cases of difficulty that may occur, and therefore am justifiable in acting as I have done until I hear from him. Mr. O'Brien in his communications to Government has imbibed the idea that our peace being guaranteed by the Potent Dey of Algiers, will be the means of

insuring our commerce from the depredations of the cruisers of Tripoli. I am of a different opinion, and my reason for being so is founded on the following fact. You may recollect that the Bashaw of Tripoli had condemned a Genoese vessel with the Dey of Algier's passport, which was the occasion of a board of Admiralty being called at Algiers, who insisted that the Bashaw of Tripoli should make restitution to the captain for said vessel and cargo for which reason Mr. O'Brien wrote his narrative to the Bashaw of Tripoli of the 25th of September, 1798, which was the reason in some measure (as I am informed here) that the Bashaw of Tripoli, from that day to this, has not paid one cent to the proprieors of said vessel, and Hadgi Mahamoud Ben Suliman has arrived lately from Algiers, without bringing any orders relative to her, which shows that the Dey of Algiers has dropped the affair entirely; and pray, sir, have we not reason to expect the same treatment should any of our vessels be brought in here? What signifies the Dey of Algiers writing here if the Bashaw will not obey his orders? I say, sir, if any of our vessels should be brought in here on any pretense whatever, they would be plundered and after the Bashaw has got the goods or their value in his hands he will never give them up, unless demanded by a sufficient force to compel him to it; should he refuse in such a case he would act as he did with Commodore Campbell—with a great deal of condescension. I conclude at present, my dear friend, with my sincere thanks to you for the precaution you have taken, the delay can occasion no material difference, and I request you will forward the inclosed to Algiers with mine of the 20th of August. Permit me to reiterate my best wishes for your welfare, and that you soon may be enabled to conclude the object of your mission to the advantage of the United States and your personal satisfaction, prays

Your sincere friend and brother exile,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

TRIPOLI, Nov. 9th, 1799.

William Eaton, Esq.

My Dear Sir:—With pleasure I hear the honorable energy which pervades and actuates our Government, of which the circular order of the 28th December, 1798, is no small instance it will plainly prove to all Europe, that it is not only the insolence of the French which we have resolved to chastise, but likewise the arrogance of the British, or any other nation that dare insult our flag. I seldom pray on political subjects but hear me for once, good God; may that great and Omnipotent Being that influences the most secret actions of men, direct the counsels of the legislation of the United States, that they may determine with wisdom and unanimity when to retaliate; that they may act with becoming energy and fortitude, when any nation on earth either dares to dictate measures to us or insult our independence; may every citizen of the United States be influened by the same honorable sentiments that the executive is at present, and should there be any so base as either to oppose or refuse their aid should war be the inevitable result of such deliberation, may their names be held up in scorn to posterity, may it be held infamous to breath in the same atmosphere with them, may they become solitary beings in the midst of society and may the Irish malediction he literally verified in the full sense of its Irish meaning. "May grass grow before their doors."

In yours of the 18th of August you say that you consider it a great misfortune that O'Brien and myself are not on terms of good understanding. That it creates in my mind very disagreeable reflections, and renders my situation peculiarly unhappy, is a fact which I have no intention to deny; but what can induce you to consider it a misfortune I can not comprehend, unless the friendship you profess for both of us makes you interest yourself in what concerns the happiness of either. If this is the case we both ought to consider ourselves indebted to you; you certainly can not

consider it a misfortune, in a political sense, without supposing that private pique and resentment biases us in our official communication. I have declared to you my sentiments on a former occasion and now shall only add that I do and shall correspond with the consul general of the United States at Algiers, with more punctuality and precision than I would probably think necessary were we on terms of intimacy, notwithstanding I have not received one answer to the many submissions I have made to him since my arrival here, and at the same time I can not help declaiming that I view Mr. O'Brien as one of the most ungrateful of men, and shall never be on terms of intimacy with him again until he gives me suitable satisfaction for his conduct towards me, which he may depend I will require from him in a very decisive manner whenever a proper opportunity offers; until then I consider myself to have made a truce with him, which I shall observe inviolably while I remain in this land of deception, where truth, honor and justice are only esteemed useful, as they serve to promote the interest of the individual from a persuasion that the truth has in its own nature no advantage over falsehood, and that the value of both one and the other, is to be determined by the convenience remitting from them and answers to the following questions, viz:

Whether during the period of ten years captivity I did not treat him as a brother, my interest and purse being always at his service, for which I have his sincere thanks in several letters which he wrote me during our captivity?

Whether I did not recommend him to the Dey to carry our first dispatches from Algiers, and by that means sacrificed eight months of my time in order to serve him, I having proposed to carry said dispatches myself, at the same time furnishing him with the means to defray his expenses?

Whether I did not introduce him to the Dey for the first time, on the 11th of September, 1795, said O'Brien's political birthday? As said facts are well known to all the

Americans, and several others that were in Algiers, it is surmised that Mr. O'Brien can not deny them. Why then did said O'Brien after his departure from Algiers, notwithstanding the many solemn promises he had made to me of writing from every port, ungratefully forbear to send me one line of information, notwithstanding the anxiety he must have supposed a man to be in who had sacrificed his liberty to serve him, and who had remained a slave to let his friend be free? Why did Mr. O'Brien, on his arrival at Philadelphia, say in public company that he was the man that introduced me to the Dey, and arrogate the whole of the services I had rendered our country to himself, and by so doing reverse the truth? Why did Mr. O'Brien, when I applied for the command of the Crescent frigate to carry to Algiers, and his opinion was asked by Mr. Francis which of the two applicants he thought most capable and the fittest person to be appointed, give his opinion decidedly in Mr. Newman's favor, notwithstanding said Newman was not regularly brought up to the sea, the first part of his life having been dedicated to the pestle and mortar in his father's shop at Newberry? You have been a witness how far I would have been adequate to the task during our westward bound passage, and I recollect of having received your thanks for my exertions on the night we came through the straits, which had very nearly terminated our career in a very tragic scene. After my appointment, why did Mr. O'Brien say in company with an oath that "Cathcart should never go to Barbary if he could help it." Until this happened I never intimated to Mr. O'Brien that I was displeased or knew of his conduct. I was informed of it in the evening and waited on him at his lodgings next morning, not with the most christian intentions I assure you. I asked him his motives for saying the above; he swore he had never said any such thing, and brought witnesses who deposed that Mr. O'Brien had said he would be ——— if I should go to Tripoli if he could help

it, he having intended to recommend to the Secretary of State to send me to Tunis, it being a place of greater consequence than Tripoli. What a farce to pretend to recommend me several months after our appointment had taken place. However as he condescended to make some sort of an excuse, though in my opinion it was a lame one, I thought proper to drop the affair, though I never treated him with familiarity afterwards. We seldom visited each other and he left Philadelphia without taking leave of me. I must not omit one circumstance—my father-in-law, on the 1st of November, 1797, asked Mr. Francis if I was going out in the frigate with O'Brien? Mr. Francis answered no, we will not send Cathcart on yet, "lest he should trouble the waters." Although I can not positively assert that Mr. O'Brien occasioned this reflection I have reason to believe he did, as I am certain he dreaded my influence at Algiers during the reign of the late Dey, and was mean enough to suppose that I envied his appointment and would form plans to envolve him in difficulties and ultimately to supplant him; in short he, by his insinuations, wished to make it thought that I would act towards him at Algiers as Famin has towards you at Tunis, although he knew in his very soul that Cathcart was incapable of so unworthy a thought. I never solicited to be appointed for Algiers, I applied for the consulate of Tunis or Tripoli, got what I asked for, and therefore I had no reason to complain of Government for having appointed O'Brien consul at Algiers. Fear and jealousy, my dear sir, has determined him to try all means to injure a man that has been his sincere and disinterested friend during the trying period of more than ten years captivity, in which time I went through scenes the horrors of which are easier to imagine than describe.

> O slavery! thou fiend of hell's recess,
> Profuse of woes, and pregnant with distress:
> Eternal horrors in thy presence reign,
> And meagre famine leads thy doleful train.

To each curst load subjection adds more weight,
And pain is doubled in vassal's fate;
O'er nature's sprightly face, thou spreadest a gloom,
And to the grave dost every pleasure doom.

But thank my stars his efforts have been so far without effect. I have put it out of his power to allege any one thing to my disadvantage, and if he tortures his invention (which is not very fertile) with an intent to forge pretenses to injure me at the seat of Government, I shall endeavor to be prepared for the event, and shall provide myself with such documents as will inevitably confute every allegation that is not founded on the strictest veracity.

When I arrived at Algiers with Mrs. Cathcart and her maid, Mr. O'Brien wished to establish more familiarity between them than was necessary, and unexpected by the young woman. The result you know; he took every means to entice her from the service of a young creature in a barbarous community, when it was impossible to procure another female attendant, who understood no language but her own, and to aggrevate the crime, this innocent young creature was the wife of a man, who in regard to him, had fulfilled the Scripture in the strictest sense, and to whom he had declared that all he ever would be worth in the world would be too little to repay, and whom to serve he would voluntarily risk his life. I shall not tire you any more with my private reasons of complaint, and shall only ask Mr. O'Brien why, if he had taken a liking to the girl, he did not declare it openly, why did he not behave with candor and request Mrs. Cathcart to part with her as a man of honor should have done? I would not have opposed the girl's good fortune, though I certainly would have advised our consul general to have pursued a different line of conduct, for view the match in either a public or private light it can not resound either to his honor or interest.

Now to the official concerns relative to the alterations of the articles in our treaty with Tunis, I was equally empow-

ered with you and Mr. O'Brien, nevertheless after I opposed his preposterous proposal of suppressing Mr. Pickering's letter to Famin, and forging another in its stead and placing thereto Mr. Smith's seal supposing Famin would not know the difference, he never consulted me in one instance relative to Tunis; and once when I observed that our Government had decidedly given it as their opinion, that it was neither "necessary or expedient" to solicit the Dey of Algiers to use his influence with the Bey of Tunis, the interposition of the late Dey, Hassan Bashaw, having served only to kindle the resentment of the Bey of Tunis, and to embarrass the negotiation and aggravate the terms of the treaty. Mr. O'Brien answered "d——my eyes, and if they ordered you to run the ship on shore, would you do it?" Yes. During the time of our stay at Algiers Mr. O'Brien used every means in his power to mortify me, and to make me feel his superiority; nor after the above polite conversation did he condescend to ask my opinion in any one instance, neither did I know what arrangements had taken place relative to Tunis, until you had politely handed me a copy of O'Brien's opinion, after we left Algiers; if this improper and ungenerous treatment in any way biased me on my arrival at Tunis, and if I did not do my duty and render you every assistance in my power, is an appeal which I make to your candor to determine. Let us now proceed to the affairs of Tripoli. I received a statement signed by you and O'Brien, dated the 20th of February, 1799, which says:

As an ultimatum propose $10,000 and the $1,000 for the pocket of Farfara, this was offering $11,000 for the stores alone without the brig, which undoubtedly was promised to the Bashaw, but Mr. O'Brien, on the 1st of March, annulled the above statement by giving me the following, visibly with an intention to embarrass me. Proposed in lieu of the stores for Tripoli to offer a cash payment: First, the sum of $4,460; second, if this fail of effect go as far as $8,000; third, for the service of Farfara $1,000; fourth, consular

presents to the great men $3,000; opinion of Richard O'Brien, Algiers, Feb. 26th, 1799, $12,000. Received by me March 1st, 1799. Mr. O'Brien here deducts $2,000 from the first proposal, as the consular present was not included in the statement which you signed, and I was only permitted to give $8,000 to the Bashaw, the present to Farfara being private would have had no influence on our arrangement whatever, this was Mr. O'Brien's opinion but not his positive orders; this offer was made but not accepted as you will see by the copy of our negotiation, which I forwarded to you with mine of the 9th of September, and I had superior orders which authorized me to promise a vessel of 10 or 12 guns if I found it necessary to procure our peace; this alone would have cost the United States more than what I gave for the stores and Sophia, in full of all demands; I therefore will be much approved rather than censured by Government; let Mr. O'Brien write whatever he pleases, I shall only act on the defensive, and I flatter myself I can always confute his weak arguments, which can only be dictated by malice as he must be and is, sensible that I have done my duty; I therefore treat his insinuations with the contempt they merit. I have made Farfara write to Bacri relative to the adjustment of our affairs, for $17,000, as Mr. O'Brien erroneously asserts in his of the 28th of May, which I received on the 25th of August. I have mentioned this before to you in mine of the 9th of September, since which the president of the grand sanhedrim, Joseph Cohen Bacri, has written a letter to his agent, Farfara, expressing a great deal of satisfaction that our affairs were adjusted here in the manner they were, and giving said Farfara orders to advance me whatever money I might want without limiting him to any specific sum; it is therefore presumed that these are his echo of our consul general and that he has only mentioned the affair of the $17,000 which never was in Farfara's letter to Bacri, (and therefore in my humble opinion highly improbable that Bacri should say there was) in order

to hurt my feelings, and to render my situation more irksome and disagreeable than it otherwise would be. Now, sir, after what I have informed you which is only the outline of Mr. O'Brien's conduct towards me, can any doubt remain that I have reason to say what Jesus said to Paul before his conversion, "Saul, Saul, why persecuteth thou me?" Nothing alleviates the suffering of a man more than communing with a person he esteems; he may be said to share his sorrows with his friend, and I assure you I feel myself much happier since I have committed my thoughts to writing, especially as I intend this to be the last time I shall ever mention Mr. O'Brien's name, except in an official manner, or that I may be called upon by him, or any other person, to vindicate my character in similar cases, I hope I shall behave with becoming dignity. I am dear sir

Yours with esteem,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

TRIPOLI, Dec. 12th, 1799.

William Eaton, Esq.

My Dear Sir:—In my last packet to you of the 27th of October and 5th and 9th of November, I inclosed my first of exchange, of which the inclosed are the second of the same tenor and date. The third set you may expect by the next opportunity. I have not been able to get the Jew to settle my account yet, although he has sold all the cloth but four pieces; when he does I will inform you how it turned out; the shallows I intend to send to Europe by the first opportunity, as they are not saleable here. I likewise sent you two letters to forward to Algiers, the one from Farfara to Macri relative to our affairs, on the back of which I wrote a note which is all the answer I intend to give our consul general's insinuations, as I have formed a resolution to evade all manner of bickering and cause of dispute, the other for Mr. O'Brien which I left open for your perusal, and

some blank bills of lading for you. On the 9th of November arrived here a Swedish brig taken by a cruiser of this Regency, her cargo is worth $40,000, she loaded at Alexandretta and Cyprus and was bound to Sardinia, her cargo being the property of subjects of that kingdom; the Bashaw has condemned it, and cleared the vessel; he first told Mr. Coster that he would condemn the cargo of every vessel that had the property of his enemies on board, but on Coster's making him a present of the freight of said vessel he has promised that he will order his cruisers not to molest the vessels of Sweden for the future; how Mr. Coster's conduct will be considered by his court is doubtful to me. That he has set a bad precedent is evident, for the above agreement as well as others which he has made are not only in violation of the treaty between Sweden and this Regency, but in violation of every other existing treaty, they all concurring that free bottoms make free goods. The affairs of Sweden stands thus with this Regency: First, Mr. Coster has renounced all claims to the cargoes and freights of the three Swedish vessels captured by the cruisers of this Regency, since my arrival here. Second, he promises to pay the sum of $23,000 for the property of Tripoline merchants, taken out of a Swedish ship by the Portuguese, before Campbell's treaty was concluded here. Third, he has promised the Bashaw $15,000 for three Swedish boys who had renounced their faith during their captivity, but were delivered up to the Swedish commodore when their treaty was renewed with this Regency. Fourth, he has agreed to pay $4,000 in cash in lieu of a consular present to have the above sum paid in a regular time, say six or seven months; the Bashaw has agreed to order his cruisers not to molest the vessels of Sweden for the future. He has likewise renounced all claims to the cargoes of two Swedish ships said to be loaded by Tripoline merchants in Morocco which were captured by the French, and condemned in Spain; and to let the world see that he desires nothing more than the friendship

of Sweden (ie.) the $42,000, he saluted the Swedish flag with 21 guns, which elated the Swedish consul amazingly, and which was returned by the brig with 21 cheers she having no guns. Let me know your opinion of this puerile negotiation in your next.

On the 18th arrived an Imperial brig a prize to this Regency loaded with tobacco, her cargo is the property of a Genoese merchant which was condemned and the Bashaw had done her the honor of careening one of his cruisers by her, which will complete her voyage to some advantage for the owners as the Grand Signore is bound by treaty to indemnify the Emperor of Germany for all depredations committed on the commerce of his subjects by the cruisers of Barbary, six months after the demand is made by the Baron de Herbertz the Emperor internuncio or ambassador at Constantinople. In my letter to O'Brien of the 30th of October, which I inclosed to you open, you were informed that the cargoes of the three Danes that were taken were condemned on pretense of their being French property or bound to a French port; the vessels are here detained until the fourth arrives, which, it is said, was retaken by a Danish frigate and carried into Algiers; and that the Dey ordered the Danish commandant to deliver her up to the Tripolines, and if he had any claims on said vessel to go and make them at Tripoli. There are three Neapolitan vessels, prizes to the Algerines here, loaded with grain; they are for sale. I imagine they had Lord Nelson's passport when taken, but the prize-masters say they had not. One of said Raises informed me that they fell in with an American frigate and two brigs at the entrance of the Adriatic sea, but was not boarded by them. I immediately sent my drogaman to inform the Bashaw that they were part of a squadron sent by the United States of America to protect our commerce against the depredations of the French, or any other nation in the Mediterranean; on stricter inquiry I was informed by another of the Raises that they were three polaccas under

American colors, and that their course was shaped for Triest. This probably was a deception but if really under American colors they must have been vessels belonging to the grand sanhedrim. I have been informed that the reason Hamuda Bashaw strangled Aliziri (alias) Ali Ben Nunez, was in consequence of the Dey of Algiers writing a letter to him to the care of the Algerine Vikil Brady which fell in the hands of the Bashaw, that Brady has taken sanctuary in a maraboot, and that the Dey of Algiers has declined his intention of marching an army against Tunis in the spring; if he does he will carry his point, as I am convinced the Turkish soldiery of your place will join him, was it only to join in the plunder of the city. I imagine a handsome present to the Dey will adjust matters amicably again, and I am much mistaken if the sanhedrim are not principal agents in this affair; however this is only conjecture; be vigilant and you will be able to unravel the whole of this maneuver, if this intended conquest does not fail as a similar affair did during the reign of terror; you will have a field to exercise your extensive abilities on, and I make no doubt will make the embarrassments of the Government where you reside prove essentially serviceable to the interests of the United States. It is reported here that Algiers is blockaded by a squadron of English and Portuguese line-of-battle ships—do you hear any news from that quarter? The Algerine Rais farther informs me that the cruisers of Algiers have received orders, neither to enter any of the ports of Tunis nor to send any of their prizes in there, this indicates something serious; please to inform me farther on this subject by the return of the courier. Should the stores for Tunis touch at Algiers, I dare say they will be detained until an accommodation takes place between the two Regencies. Whatever may be the result that it may eventualy promote the interest of our country is the most fervent prayer of your sincere friend and

Humble servant,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

P. S. Should the stores arrive at Algiers or Tunis, and any letters come from Government for me, please forward them by a courier to me immediately, and inform me how long the vessel that brings them will be detained, and whether she returns direct to America.

TRIPOLI IN BARBARY, Dec. 14, 1799.

Hon. David Humphreys, Minister from U. S. of A. at Spain.

Dear Sir:—Want of opportunity joined to an imperfect state of health, and I may add want of matter worthy your attention, has occasioned my not renewing the correspondence I was formerly honored with when in captivity; give me leave, at present, to solicit a continuance of that honor and to transmit, for your perusal, the most prominent transactions of this Government since my arrival here, which, since the adjustment of our affairs with this Regency for the sum of $18,000 to the Bashaw for the stipulated stores detention and the brig Sophia, which it seems had either been promised to him by our agents, or he had forged the demand, as you have already been informed by the Bashaw's letter transmitted to you by Mr. Ingraham, there has nothing worthy notice taken place except Commodore Campbell's expedition against this place, and the depredations committed by the cruisers of this Regency upon the commerce of the nations with whom they are at peace, and who has paid them considerable sums to insure the continuance of their friendship. I have transmitted a detailed account of said expedition, and every other political transaction of this Regency at different times, to Mr. O'Brien, of which I presume he has already informed you with a long repetition. On my arrival at Tripoli on the 5th of April, I was refused permission to land, and was informed that the Bashaw would not receive me as consul from the United States, as I had not brought the stipulated stores and had positively

refused him the brig, which he declared was promised him by Mr. O'Brien. Mr. Bryan McDonogh, who was charged with our affairs by Ingraham was the messenger employed on this occasion by both parties, an in every respect espoused the cause of the Bashaw. He was piqued that neither our Government nor Mr. O'Brien had taken any notice of him for the services he had rendered him and the crew of the ship Betsey, when here, I therefore thought it advisable to secure his interest by a douceur, which had the desired effect as he afterwards proved very useful to us here, and facilitated negotiation as much as lay in his power; at the same time I have reason to believe that he occasioned the first obstacle, and by his influence persuaded the Bashaw not to give me an audience, in order that I should be necessitated to employ him, by that means founding a plea for a reward. He enjoys the entire confidence of the Bashaw, and in addition to the service he renders his family he is his project maker, by which means he has amassed six or seven thousand dollars in a few years. In short, sir, he is the famin of Tripoli, and though it is necessary for the agent of the United States here to treat him with politeness, it would be very improper to intrust our affairs again to his guidance, as he is most certainly, *le tres humble serviteur des evenements,* and would plead pro or con, or both, for money; his venality is remarked by all the consuls here, and what is very extraordinary he is at once carressed and despised. On the 6th, Mr. McDonogh came on board and gave me the Bashaw's demand in writing, which was that if Mr. Cathcart did not promise the Bashaw the brig or $50,000 in lieu of her, the stores stipulated by treaty, and consular presents, that he would not receive him as consul from the United States, but would declare war against said States in forty days from this date. After a great deal of menacing and huckstering on the part of the Bashaw's emissaries and opposition to his unreasonable demands on mine I obtained an audience on the 7th inst, when the Bashaw

confirmed what I have related above, and added a great many invectives against O'Brien for denying that he had promised him the brig, and said that he neither was dependent on Algiers or the Grand Signore, and that by declaring war against the United States he would let the world see that he was an independent Prince, and would be respected as such. I combatted his insinuations and unjust demands but with little success, and remonstrated to the Bashaw in writing on the impropriety of his conduct to a nation that had never injured him nor his subjects, but on the contrary had already paid him a considerable sum to insure his friendship, and whose agents were now prepared to fulfill every stipulation of the treaty subsisting between the two nations. That the stores were shipped for Tripoli before I departed from America, and their non-arrival in time was owing to some accident over which human foresight had no control, that nevertheless I had no objection to pay his excellency an equivalent in cash, provided he would confine his demand within the bounds of reason and equity. The Doctor explained my letter to the Bashaw who answered it in Arabic. This proposal I instantly rejected and returned to the Bashaw by the Doctor with the contempt such an unreasonable demand merited. On the 8th and 9th, the Minister of Marine was employed by the Bashaw to negotiate with me. This evening I told him to inform his excellency, the Bashaw, that I could not comply with his demand, that it was of no service whatever for us to talk any further on the subject, that I was sorry his conduct towards the United States would oblige them to turn the arms against him, which were now employed against our common enemy, the French; for he might depend the United States would never put up with so palpable an imposition. I further requested him to inform the Bashaw that I would do myself the honor to wait on him in the morning and hear his ultimatum, and if he did not alter his opinion and demands I would sail in the brig for Tunis and Algiers the first fair wind.

The 10th. The interest of the Minister of the Marine and McDonogh having been previously purchased, I agreed to pay the Bashaw in full of all demands from the United States the sum of $10,000 for the stores, and $8,000 for the brig, which I have every reason to believe was promised to him by Mr. O'Brien. The contingent expenses amounted to $1,500 more, and the consular present which was procured at Philadelphia and Algiers about $4,000, the whole amount being $23,000. The flag of the United States was saluted with 21 guns and thus ended our negotiation. I immediately paid the Bashaw $1,500 cash, which I had drawn at Tunis, and gave bills on Algiers and Tunis for the rest, which were duly honored, and I am happy to inform you that nothing has happened since to disturb the harmony subsisting between this Regency and the United States.

Commodore Campbell arrived here on the 6th of May, and sailed on the 20th. In the intermediate time he drove one cruiser of 18 guns on shore, burned her, and took the Tripoline Admiral and two Swedish prizes, he then concluded a treaty between the most faithful Majesty and this Regency on the footing of the most favored nation, and on the inclosed terms. This, sir, was effected by one 64 gun ship only, with the loss of a boat and two men wounded—one fatally. That the United States may adopt a similar plan of negotiation with these contemptible poltroons, whenever there may be occasion, is my most fervent prayer. Since my arrival here the cruisers have taken and the Bashaw condemned the cargoes of five Danes, three Swedes, two Imperials, and one Ragusian, on various false pretenses, the particulars of which I have forwarded to Mr. O'Brien, and requested him to forward copies of my letters to you, which no doubt he has done. In last April the Bashaw freighted a Spanish vessel to go to Algiers and Bona, thence to return home; he agreed to pay $200 per month for said vessel until he should discharge her from his

service. She returned here on the 23rd of August, and in order to save the freight was seized and condemned on pretense that her papers were not in order, she having been purchased at Malta, and that the Spanish minister there had not sufficient power to grant said vessel a passport, or to put her under Spanish colors. Some of her crew are delivered to the Spanish charge-des-affairs, and some are made slaves. From the tenor of the Bashaw's conduct to other nations, have we not reason to suppose that he will make use of the slightest pretext to commit depredations on our commerce—you probably will say that our peace being guaranteed by Algiers will insure us from every insult. I hope it may, but I assure you, sir, it is a point in much doubt with me, and my reason for not placing much confidence in the promises of our friends at Algiers, is because the Genoese vessel that was captured with the Dey of Algier's passport, which occasioned a board of admiralty being called, and Mr. O'Brien's narrative to the Bashaw of Tripoli of the 25th of September, 1798, who insisted that the Bashaw of Tripoli should make restitution to the captain for said vessel and cargo, but from that day to this he has not made restitution or paid one cent to the proprietors of said vessel and cargo; and Hadgi Mahamoud Ben Suliman having arrived lately from Algiers without having brought any further demands for said vessel and cargo, shows clearly that the Dey of Algiers has dropped the affair entirely; and pray, sir, have we not reason to expect the same treatment should any of our vessels be brought in here? What signifies the Dey of Algiers writing here if the Bashaw will not obey his orders? I say, sir, if any of our vessels should be brought in here they would be plundered, and after the Bashaw has got the goods or their value in his hands he will never give them up, unless demanded by a sufficient force to compel him to should he refuse, in such a case he would act, as he did to Commodore Campbell, with a great deal of condescension. You may depend, sir, that if Government does not send

some of our frigates into the Mediterranean our commerce will never be upon a respectable footing in these seas, and we will be continually exposed to the depredations of those pirates; if we put up with the first insult we may expect a repetition, and ultimately we will be obliged to send an armed force, which had we done in time, we would have intimidated Tripoli at least from committing depredations on our commerce. I have but few opportunities to write from here and depend entirely on our consuls at Algiers and Tunis to forward intelligence from me to the seat of Government, and our Ministers in Europe; and this channel of communication I imagine will soon be stopped, as I am informed that the Dey of Algiers contemplates the conquest of Tunis, and has actually commenced hostilities against that State. If this intended conquest does not fail as a similar one did during the reign of Hassan Bashaw, our consuls in those Regencies will have an extensive field to exert their abilities upon, and by managing our affairs with address they will have it in their power to make the embarrassments of the Government where they reside subservient to the interests of the United States. I imagine a well-timed liberality will secure the Bey of Tunis from further molestation, but if the Dey of Algiers is really serious he will succeed, as I am persuaded the whole Turkish soldiery of Tunis will revolt and join his army, was it for no other reason than to share in the plunder of the city. Whatever may be the result I presume it will eventually promote our interest at Tunis. The inclosed papers I have had by me for some time, waiting for an opportunity from Spain, but none offering I have sent them via Tunis, inclosed to our consul there, who will take a pleasure in forwarding them to you. I hear nothing relative to citizen Bonaparte; the fact, I believe, is that he has fortified himself so well at Cairo, that while he has provisions and ammunition he will maintain his post, malgre the whole force of the Ottoman Empire, and I am really of opinion that if he is not attacked by regular

troops that the whole rabble of the Levant will be insufficient to reduce him to the necessity of an honorable capitulation. He is, without doubt, a most extraordinary character. I shall embrace every opportunity of communicating to you the political transactions of this Government. Interim believe me to be with much respect, dear sir,

Your most obedient servant,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

With this was forwarded the following papers: Histoire Abrege de Tripoli; Relazione del Commercio de Tripoll e delle rendite del Barsa; Marine Force of Tripoli; Copy of Commodore Campbell's Terms of Peace between Portugal and this Regency in Portuguese; Copy of my Letter to Richard O'Brien, Esq., dated Tripoli, Oct. 30th, 1799, with the following letter to Mr. Pickering.

TRIPOLI, Dec. 27, 1799.

Honorable Timothy Pickering.

Dear Sir:—By the above copy of a letter to Mr. O'Brien, you will be informed of the only alteration which has taken place in the affairs of the United States since the departure of the Sophia, the clause in dispute is the following: "But not to suffer their vessels to be visited any otherwise than by producing their proper passports from the President of the United States, and to allow no more than one boat with two persons only, besides the rowers, to visit them, these two only to be permitted to go on board the merchant vessel without obtaining express leave from their commander, and they shall compare the passport and immediately permit said merchant vessel to proceed on her voyage unmolested." I at present make out our passports in manuscript as the British do theirs. I have not had a line from Mr. O'Brien since the 17th of June, although I have written him several letters on different subjects. If Government would wish to carry this point it must be done by force of arms or bribery;

but my opinion is that it is of very little moment whether our passports have that clause inserted in them or not. I hope to receive your orders on the subject the first opportunity, and should the point be dropped please to send me 500 blank passports exactly the same as those I have, the above clause excepted. I am, sir, with much respect

Your most humble servant,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

TRIPOLI, Dec. 30th, 1799.

Hon. Timothy Pickering, Secretary of State.

Dear Sir:—In communications to Messrs. Smith, Humphreys, O'Brien and Eaton, the copies of which they have or will forward for your perusal, you will be informed of the most prominent transactions of this government since my arrival, and that the cruisers of this Regency have captured five Danes, three Swedes, two Imperials and one Ragusian, the cargoes of which were condemned on various false pretenses, among which was the Swedish brig Osterom Graeson, Peter Ostland, master. She loaded at Alexandretta and Cyprus, and was bound to Sardinia; her cargo being the property of subjects of that kingdom, and was valued at $40,000. The Bashaw immediately condemned the cargo and cleared the vessel, and at the same time informed Mr. Coster that he would condemn the cargo of every Swedish vessel that had the property of his enemies on board; but on Coster making him a present of the freight he promised to order his cruisers not to molest the vessels of Sweden for the future. How Mr. Coster's conduct will be considered by his court is doubtful to me, that he has set a bad precedent is evident. The above agreement, as well as others, which he has made is not only in direct violation of the treaty subsisting between Sweden and this Regency, but is in violation of every existing treaty, they all concurring that free

bottoms makes free goods. According to my instructions I have requested Mr. O'Brien's opinion and advice, should any of our vesesls be brought in here on any pretense whatever, but to no purpose. I have not received an answer to any of the submissions I have made to him since my arrival here, neither have I received a line from him since the 17th June last. The affairs of Sweden stands thus with the Regency since my arrival here.

First, Mr. Coster has renounced all claims to the cargoes and freights of the three Swedish vessels captured by the cruisers of this Regency since my arrival here; second, he has promised to pay the sum of $23,000 in lieu of $32,000 demanded by the Bashaw, for the property of the Tripoline merchants, taken out of a Swedish ship by the Portuguese before my arrival; third, he has promised the Bashaw $15,000 for three Swedish boys who had renounced their faith during their captivity, but were delivered up to the Swedish Commodore when he renewed their treaty with this Regency; fourth, he has promised to pay the Bashaw $4,000 cash in lieu of a consular present, making a total of $42,000.

In consequence of the payment of the above sum in a regular time say 6 or 7 months, the Bashaw has promised to order his cruisers not to molest the vessels of Sweden before the expiration of said period. He has likewise renounced all claims to the cargoes of two Swedish ships said to be loaded at Morocco by Tripoline merchants, which are said to have been captured by the French and condemned in Spain. The Bashaw then ordered the Swedish flag to be saluted with 21 guns, to let the world see that he desired nothing more than the friendship of Sweden (ie.) the $42,000. This compliment elated Mr. Coster very much, who is a vain, ignorant man, and was returned by the Swedes with 21 cheers, she not mounting any guns. Mr. Coster then freighted the same vessel to one of the Bashaw's counsellors to carry the same cargo which was condemned to Leghorn; the consequence will be that if any accident hap-

pens to said vessel the Government of Sweden will be obliged to indemnify the Bashaw for the very cargo which he has plundered from under the Swedish flag. When you acknowledge the receipt of this, I should be glad to know your opinion of this puerile negotiation and to receive your orders should a similar case of our own happen.

NOTE.—This vessel, as I conjectured, was taken by a French privateer and carried into Caprera where her cargo was condemned, and the Bashaw of Tripoli in his negotiation with Sweden in January, 1801, has charged $24,000 for it.

By the whole of my correspondence since my arrival here, you will be informed of the little faith which ought to be placed in the Bashaw's promises; he is a venal wretch destitute of every honorable sentiment, exceedingly ambitious to make as great a figure as the Bashaws of Algiers and Tunis, without having the means and contrary to the rules followed by his predecessors; he assumes a great deal of grandeur and ostentation at his court, has a large number of body guards richly dressed and keeps about 1,500 men of different denominations in pay to guard his person, castle and miserable city. This occasions a great expense which his revenues are by no means sufficient to defray, more especially at present, as the commerce of this Regency is entirely ruined by the existing war and the Bashaw's impositions on the Jews, who compose the commercial body of this Regency. He can not bear the idea of reducing his expenses, the most distant insinuation of that nature would be attended with instant death to any of his vassals. How then is this tyrant to procure the means to support his importance? His evil counsellors advise him to commit depredations on

the commerce of the nations with whom he is at peace. The cruisers sally forth and capture every vessel they fall in with; they are sent in here, their cargoes condemned and vessels detained for several weeks upon various false pretenses. From the tenor of the Bashaw's conduct to other nations with whom this Regency is at peace, we have reason to suppose that he will make use of the slightest pretext to commit depredations on our commerce. You probably will say that our peace being guaranteed by Algiers will insure us from every insult; I hope it may, but I assure you, sir, it is a point in much doubt with me, and my reason for not placing much confidence in the promises of our friends in Algiers (in addition to the reception I met with here on my arrival) is because the Genoese vessel which was captured with the Dey of Algier's passport which occasioned a board of admiralty being called, and Mr. O'Brien's narrative to the Bashaw of Tripoli of the 25th of September, 1798, who insisted that the Bashaw of Tripoli should make restitution to the captain for said vessel and cargo; but from that day to this he has not paid one cent to the proprietors of said vessel and cargo, and Hadgi Mahamoud Ben Suliman having arrived lately from Algiers, without having brought any further demands for said vessel and cargo, shows evidently that the Dey of Algiers has dropped the affair entirely; and pray, sir, have we not reason to expect the same treatment should any of our vessels be brought in here? What signifies the Dey of Algiers writing here if the Bashaw will not obey his orders? I say, sir, if any of our vessels should be brought in here they will be plundered, and after the Bashaw has got the goods or their value in his hands he will never give them up, unless demanded by a sufficient force to compel him to do it. Should he refuse in such a case, he would act as he did to Commodore Campbell—with a great deal of condescension—and I am confirmed in my opinion that if the United States does not keep a sufficient force in the Mediterranean to compel these people to civility, that

our commerce will never be on a respectable footing in these seas. I do not approve of bribery and by that means feeding the avarice of the heads of the different Regencies, and leaving the body of the people discontent, although where there is not sufficient force to act with energy, it is sometimes necessary; but from the observations I have made during my residence in Barbary, I have always found that the nations who have made the greatest sacrifice were always imposed on. I have but few opportunities to write from here, my chief dependence is from Consuls of Algiers and Tunis to forward intelligence from me to the seat of Government and our Ministers in Europe, and this channel of communication I imagine will soon be stopped, as I am informed that the Dey of Algiers contemplates the conquest of Tunis, and has actually commenced hostilities against that State. If this intended conquest does not fail as a similar one did during the reign of Hassan Bashaw, our consuls in those Regencies will have an extensive field to exert their abilities upon, and by managing our affairs with address they will have it in their power to make the embarrassments of the Government where they reside subservient to the interests of the United States. I imagine a well-timed liberality will secure the Bey of Tunis from farther molestation, but if the Dey of Algiers is really serious he will succeed, as I am persuaded the whole Turkish soldiery of Tunis will revolt and join his army, was it for no other reason than to share in the plunder of the city. Whatever may be the result I presume it will eventually promote our interest at Tunis. Mr. Eaton dispatched Dr. Shaw last month with dispatches for the Department of State, who no doubt will arrive before this, when you will be informed of the particulars of this intended invasion and of our affairs at Tunis. On the 25th of this month Commodore Donald Campbell returned here in the British brig of war El Corso; his conduct has been approved by the court of Portugal, and he has come to sign the treaty between the two powers,

which is composed of twenty-nine articles nearly the same as the British treaty with this Regency; he and all his officers have been promoted. Campbell has been promoted to the command in the Brazils; he returns to Lisbon and takes Bryan McDonogh with him, who he has promised to recommend to the Government of Portugal as a proper person to be appointed their consul general and agent in this Regency. The inclosed paper I have had by me for some time waiting for a safe conveyance, and now inclose them to Mr. Smith at Lisbon. I am at present collecting information relative to the interior of this Regency, and the political and piratical transactions since the commencement of the reign of the present Bashaw, which I will endeavor to forward to you as soon as possible. I am very anxious to hear from the Department of State; I have not received a line from any person in the United States since my departure thence. I am, dear sir, with much respect and esteem,

Your humble servant,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

P. S. The Bashaw treats me with respect, and no alteration has taken place in our affairs (except that in our passports) since the departure of the Sophia, which I hope has arrived safe.

TRIPOLI, Jan. 1, 1800.

Honorable Timothy Pickering.

Dear Sir:—On the 5th of last November I took the liberty of drawing upon you for $1,000, payable to the order of William Eaton, our consul at Tunis, sixty days after the date of said bill, and on the 10th do I drew upon you for $500, payable one hundred and fifty days after date, to the order of said person. I have not heard from Eaton since, and therefore do not know if he has forwarded them; if he has you will please to accept them and pay them when due

and place the above sum of $1,500 to my account. The vikil of Algiers here has pressed me very much to take some of the coin of his Regency from him, which he has in his hands from the Dey of Algiers, and to give him a bill on our consul at Algiers for it; he has represented to me that it would be rendering the Dey a favor and would be gratefully acknowledged by him; he has offered to give me 1,150 piastres per Spanish dollar, which is their full value at present, whereas the Jews never have given me more than 960 piastres per dollar which makes a difference of 19¼ per cent., which is too large a sum for me to lose out of my small pittance, which I assure is barely sufficient to maintain me with decency. Mr. Eaton, I am informed, has charged the United States with an outfit equal to one year's salary—if it is allowed to him it certainly will be to me—I therefore request you will credit me that sum in my account current. I have not concluded whether I will take any money from the Algerine vikil or not; if I do I will lodge it in the hands of Mr. Leon Farfara, our broker here, to answer any extraordinary demands upon the United States, although I flatter myself none will be made for some time or until my salary amounts to the sum I draw for. I am, sir, with great respect,

Your most obedient servant,
JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

TRIPOLI, Jan. 1, 1801.

Hon. William Smith, Lisbon.

Dear Sir:—On the 14th of last October I forwarded for you a packet to Thomas Bulkley, Esq., at Lisbon, supposing you to be absent I requested him to open said packet and to forward the inclosures to the Department of State. By the inclosed packet for the Secretary of State which I have left open for your perusal, you will be informed of the state of

affairs in this Regency, and every other intelligence which I have been able to procure. I forwarded you a detailed account of our negotiation with this Regency some months ago via Tunis, but I being in a very bad state of health at that time I did not write to you, but requested Mr. Eaton to forward the negotiation which I hope he has done. You will be so obliging as to acknowledge the receipt of this as soon as possible, enterim believed me to be, with respect and esteem, dear sir,

Your very humble servant,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

In the packet inclosed to Mr. Smith were the following papers: Two letters to Mr. Pickering, one of the 27th of December, the other of the 1st of January; copies of all the papers forwarded to Col. Humphreys and a list of the papers forwarded to me by the Department of State, and other public characters since my departure from America.

TRIPOLI, Jan. 1, 1800.

Thomas Bulkley, Esq., Lisbon.

Dear Sir:—On the 14th of last October I took the liberty of forwarding to your address a packet for Mr. Smith, at the same time requesting you to open it and to forward the inclosures to the Department of State; should Mr. Smith be absent Commodore Campbell has politely charged himself with the delivery of a packet to our minister, should he be in Lisbon, if he is not you will be so kind to open it and take out my letter to Mr. Smith, and forward the remainder to the Department of State; by so doing you will render a service to Government and confer a favor on, dear sir,

Your very humble and obedient servant,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

N. B. With this went the price current.

TRIPOLI, Jan. 4, 1800.

Richard O'Brien.

Sir:—This day I have drawn upon you for $2,000, Spanish, in favor of his Excellency Mustapha Bashaw, Dey of Algiers, value received, by me from the Algerine vikil here; he solicited me very strongly to take a larger sum, but I thought it might put you to an inconvenience to pay it, I therefore have only drawn to the above amount, to oblige the Dey of Algiers and myself, the Jewes never having given me more than 960 piastres per dollar, although a dollar is worth 1.150 which makes a difference of 19¼ per cent., which is too great a sum to be deducted out of my small salary, which is barely sufficient to maintain me with economy; this money remains in the hands of Farfara to serve any extraordinary emergency or until my salary amounts to that sum. Mr. Eaton has charged the United States to an outfit equal to a year's salary, which we are certainly entitled to, but I have not charged it nor shall I until I receive answers to my letters from Government, as on them depends the continuance of my residence in Tripoli. I am waiting with inpatience for answers to my letters to you of July 7th, August 20th and October the 30th. I have not had a line from you since yours of the 17th of June, which I received with the inclosures all right on Oct. the 21st. We are in perfect tranquility here and no difference has taken place in our affairs whatever since my last. Dr. Shaw was at Malta last month; he is bound to America with dispatches via England or Portugal. I expect to have a good opportunity soon for your place, when I will write you more extensively. I am,

Your humble servant,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

P. S. Should I remain in Tripoli after my receiving answers from Government, it will require $600 or $700 at least to make the consular house comfortable. I shall go to no expense till then. I wrote to Mr. Eaton today.

TRIPOLI, Jan. 15, 1800.

William Eaton, Esq.

My Dear Sir:—I received your esteemed favor of the 25th and 28th November, as likewise yours of the 5th of December inclosing a letter from Mr. O'Brien on the 11th inst, which I am sorry you did not open. I never, in my life, read more malice, ignorance and contradiction jumbled together. His letter is a perfect chaos. All these indignities I shall endeavor to bear with patience until I hear from the Department of State. The following is an extract by way of sample, "Viewing the purport of your letter of the 7th of July, it is of a serious nature and you that is so skilled in Barbary affairs might, when you were in Philadelphia, submit such propositions to the Secretary of State; they would be more your official duty to do than other propositions which you submitted that was not in your department, and that depended on occurrences." He seems to be piqued that I enjoy the confidence of Government and I do not know how to vex him more than by endeavoring to merit a continuance of that confidence. I have not got my accounts made out by Farfara yet, but am persuaded to have them this week. I have advised Mr. Pickering of my having particularly requested you not to negotiate the bills on him in Barbary, but if you should want the money in your place, send my bills back to me and I will procure bills payable to you at Tunis in lieu of them. You mention that I must be informed that Dr. Shaw left Tunis the 17th of October. I heard that he had been seen at Malta and Palermo, but I have not had a line from you but what I have above acknowledged since the arrival of Hassassi; you will oblige me very much by letting me know if you have received mine of the 9th of September inclosing a journal of our negotiation with this Regency, as you have not acknowledged the receipt of it, I am afraid it is lost. Permit me to return my thanks to you in gross, for all your favors, by Capt. Marco. You shall be informed more fully of any transaction that has or

may take place—the courier is waiting down stairs—which I hope will be a sufficient excuse for the abruptness with which I subscribe myself

Your sincere friend,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

P. S. Nothing gives me greater pleasure than the brightness of our prospects at Tunis; it operated upon me like a powerful antidote against the venom contained in O'Brien chaos.

TRIPOLI, Feb. 3, 1800.

William Eaton, Esq.

Dear Sir:—I acknowledge the receipt of the 25th and 28th, and 5th of December, on the 1st of January in mine of the 15th ult. in which I requested you not to negotiate the bills of Barbary which I drew upon the Secretary of State in your favor; my reason for so doing was in consequence of the Algerine prizes which were sent in here, having given me an opportunity of obliging the Dey of Algiers and securing the friendship of the Algerine vikil, who requested me, in the strongest manner, to accept of the whole import of said prizes and to give him bills upon Algiers for the same, he making me a very advantageous offer, but considering the state of our funds at Algiers, joined to the many false insinuations of my *ci devant ami,* O'Brien, I thought proper only to receive $2,000 at the rate of 1.150 piastres per dollar, for which I have drawn upon him independent of rendering the Dey of Algiers, whose influence here is little less than nominal; you will imagine that it was a matter of moment to myself as the Jews never gave me more than 960 piastres per dollar, and I having received 1.150 from the Algerine vikil, makes a difference of 19¼ per cent. in my favor, besides making me independent of the Jews, on whom I was obliged to dance attendance sometimes for a week before

they would think proper to advance me $50 for my culinary purposes, excusing themselves by saying they had no cash. Farfara has promised me a bill for $500, if he gives it to me I will inclose it to you, and if you should wish to negotiate the other bill for $1,000 before July next, advise me in season and I will send you bills payable in Tunis or Algiers to the full amount. Should you receive advice from Government that we are allowed an outfit before that time, the negotiating the bill in Barbary can make no difference whatever to me, as I have written to Col. Pickering on the subject, and requested him to give me credit to the amount of our outfit. Will you believe me when I inform you that I have not been able to get my account of cloth settled yet, notwithstanding the many promises which I have received? The fact is the Jews are in debt to the Bashaw for prize goods, and I imagine have paid my account to their credit, though Farfara, above ten times, has promised me that the Bashaw will send me a receipt for the sum he owes me, and requests me to have a little patience yet it has not appeared. I will wait until the Ramadan is over, and no longer, before I have an explanation. The letter you mention which stated terms on which you thought I might send wine to Tunis I have not received. I imagine Hadgi Mahamoud, "red beard," may have it who has not yet arrived although he has been expected here over six weeks; for my idea on that subject I refer you to my letter of the 27th of October last. Our prospects at Tunis are really flattering in comparison to what they were some months ago; perseverance and energy effects a great deal in Barbary, but above all a consul in any of these infernal Regencies ought to transact his own business, otherwise he certainly will be deceived. In one of my former letters I requested you to give me your opinion of our negotiation with this Regency, a statement of which I transmitted to you with mine of the 9th of September. The infamous treatment you have received from Famin is really unparalleled; your sensations will represent

to you what I must have felt from a similar treatment from O'Brien. I have adopted your plan of forbearance, though amazingly against my inclination. I shall continue in this mood until I receive dispatches from Government. Should his insinuations have injured my reputation, I will resign my post immediately, and repair to Philadelphia for redress. The only news I have to inform you of since mine of the 21st of December is that Commodore Campbell arrived here in the British brig El Corso on the 25th of December, and ratified the peace between Portugal and this Regency. The treaty was made out in imitation of the British, and contained 29 articles. On the 15th ult. Mr. McDonogh left here with the Commodore destined for Lisbon, to solicit that Government for the appointment here—he has worked hard for a consulate. To sum up his character in a few words, he is the Famin of Tripoli, and although he ultimately rendered us considerable service in consequence of a bribe, he certainly placed obstacles in our way before I converted him to our interest. Three cruisers are fitting out, Marad the chief. I make no doubt but in my next I will be able to give you an account of more depredations having been committed on the commerce of the nations with whom this Regency is at peace. Pray God we may never be reduced to the humiliating necessity of proving the strength of Algerine influence in our favor by demonstration. That you may have the happiness of concluding the objects of your mission to the advantage of our country, and your own satisfaction, is the wish of your most sincere friend and

Humble servant,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

TRIPOLI, Feb. 6, 1800.

William Eaton, Esq.

My Dear Sir:—I received yours of the 28th of December

on the 4th inst. and of the 12th of January, about an hour ago. I perfectly recollect your complaint but never imagined it to be of a serious nature. I thought it was occasioned by the fatigues of the voyage and the anxiety of mind attending the non-success of our embassy, though we certainly effected as much as ever was effected by any nation that had the the same obstacles to remove, and whose affairs were involved in the same intricacy. I hope the waters answered your expectation and that you have reaped the desired benefit; if they have any of the qualities of Lethe pray send me a gallon or two. There are many things which I wish to forget, but reflection renovates their impression on my mind, and comparison helps to perpetuate their memory. This instant I have received a tischera from the Bashaw for the value of the cloth which was sold to him. I can manage the Jew, as a proof I send you a bill for $500 upon Bacri at Algiers, payable at sight, when I receive the money from the Bashaw, which I never shall think entirely secure until I have it in my house. I shall be no loser by this speculation. I have sent the shalloons to Leghorn. I can not give you an exact statement of this account until I am paid. The extract from Mr. Smith's letter was contained in Mr. O'Brien's to me of the same date as yours, with the following postscript;

Mr. Gairno writes me that in September the United States frigate L'Insurgent, Capt. Murray, was at Gibralter, and sailed again on a cruise to the westward; that Capt. Smith in the United States polacca, the Dey, had arived at Philadelphia. I have circulated this intelligence of the frigates and really believe it has in some measure influenced the Bashaw to send me the receipt for the money he owes me. The procedure of our Government seems to indicate a full approbation of our conduct by respecting our representations. I hope to God the Sophia arrived safe with our dispatches. Brady's affair is represented here as follows;

That he being at Algiers some time ago the Dey, after having enjoined him to the greatest secrecy, and promised

him great rewards to ensure his fidelity, entrusted him with a letter from Aiiziri which tended to the dethroning of Hamuda Bashaw; that said Brady had sworn fealty to the Dey, and actually charged himself with the delivery of said letter and engaged to forward Aliziri's answer; that he actually delivered the Dey's letter and received the answer to forward to Algiers, when his conscience accusing him of his ingratitude to Hamuda, who had conferred many obligations on him, he resolved to divulge the whole affair, and therefore presented the letter for the Dey of Algiers to the Bey of Tunis, who immediately took the steps you are already acquainted with much better than I am. It seems to me that Brady was influenced more by fear than gratitude, and that seeking to avoid "Scylla he had fallen upon Charybdis." The intentions of the Dey relative to the war cruisers was communicated to me by the same person that carried the lines to you on the 4th of January, who likewise informed me of having seen the three vessels under American colors steering for Triest. It is since reported that the Dey demanded of Brady, in a very peremptory manner, and that he, to prevent his falling into the hands of his enemies, had swallowed poison; that Hamuda has made a large present to the Dey and Ministry, and that an accommodation has taken place. Whether the above is true or not, you are the best judge being on the spot, but here I take every advantage of such reports in order to inspire these people with great ideas of the Dey's influence and energy—you know the reason. I hope we may never be under the humiliating necessity of trying its effects. By letters that came with your last, we are informed that the Court of Sweden has appointed a new consul general for this Regency—he is expected daily, Mrs. Cathcart presents her devoirs to you and wishes Mrs. Tulin joy. That you may enjoy as much happiness as I wish you, prays your unfeigned friend and

Humble servant,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

TRIPOLI, Feb. 8, 1800.

William Eaton, Esq.

Dear Sir:—Capt. Marco not having sailed gives me an opportunity to acknowledge the receipt of yours of the 18th and 28th of October and 15th of November. They were brought to me by a servant of Mahamoud who has just arrived. I have not seen him and therefore can not inform you of the cause of detention. I wrote to you in haste on the 6th as it was said the vessel was to sail that day, but vessels and couriers generally stay here three or four days after they go away, the fashionable vice of this court is deception—of course the greatest adept in deceit is the greatest man. This vice pervades all ranks of the people, and extends its influence to the merest trifles. As we have corresponded since the above letters were written, of course they require no particular answer. The letter you inclosed was from Philadelphia, the only news a long winter but not very severe, but has proved very disadvantageous to cattle, especially in the New England States. Capt. Woodside desires to be remembered to you; please give my compliments to Mr. Clark. The passport he has given Capt. Marco is not worth a cent. Lucas gave the same man a similar one. He fell in with a British man of war, was taken, vessel and cargo condemned. As nothing particular happened since my last I do not intend writing to Algiers until I receive an answer to mine of October last. By informing your correspondents that no alteration has taken place here, and at the date of this all is well, you will oblige,

Your sincere friend,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

TRIPOLI, Feb. 17, 1800.

William Eaton, Esq.

Dear Sir:—Capt. Marco being detained by contrary

winds gives me an opportunity of informing you of the following facts, by which you will be enabled, in some measure, to form an opinion of the Monarch of Tripoli. We not having had any rain since the 20th of last April except a very small shower on the 8th of December. The Bashaw, on the 12th inst., gave the follwing ridiculous order: That all the youth of the city should assemble and each throw a stone at the cadi's seat where he administers justice to the populace, and then and there heave a stone at him as a mark of the just detestation the Bashaw has for all acts of injustice, and although he could not prove anything against said civil magistrate, he was lead to believe that he must have committed several acts of the most flagrant injustice, as nothing less could incense the great and only Allah to make him withhold his bounty from this great populace and ancient Pachalic, the abode of the Faithful and terror of its enemies. He farther added that if the cadi was not present that they should cast the stones at his seat, which would be sufficient, as the Prophet would intercede for them in virtue of their just intention without insisting on the vigor of the act; the boys through ignorance of the order or malice, I know not which, proceeded to his worship's seat and not finding him there they demolished it and filled it with stones, and then went in a body to his dwelling house; the servants being apprised of their coming barricaded the doors that they could not get in, they however pelted the door with stones until it was rendered unserviceable and then retired with exultation and shouts of joy. This happened on a very cloudy day, wind about southeast, which is a land wind, and extremely warm, the air impregnated with small sand from the desert, the whole indicating a thunder storm and rain. The Prophet however this time was inexorable, the wind came round to the northwest and fine clear weather ensued. On the 13th the wind was to the southward, the sun obscured with clouds of sand and indicated rain, the Bashaw in order to insure success beyond all probability or doubt,

ordered the boys to destroy the apparatus of the synagogue. This was a feast for them, they went in a body armed with stones; the lamp with seven branches was destroyed, the holy oil was spilled, the tabernacle was polluted, the holy writings were thrown down and torn, the "vail of the temple was rent in twain" and they played the very devil in the *sanctum sanctorum*. When the populace in any country finds themselves vested with power, they generally are either ignorant of the limits of the power delegated to them or maliciously surpass its bounds. The boys not content with their achievement at the synagogue went into several of the Jews' houses and broke their moveables, and threw stones at the poor creatures who had no other alternative but a precipitate retreat. The maraboots paraded the streets and marine and threw stones at the Jews and Christians, in sign of their detestation to all orders of men but those that profess the true Mussulman faith. An Imperial Captain was wounded on the eyebrow by one of these holy missile weapons, who was the only Christian that was corporally hurt by this ceremony, although our feelings must have been callous not to have sentimentally felt the horrors of our humiliating situation. Does not humanity recoil, my dear sir, at the indignities these poor Jews continually suffer? And yet they content themselves at the very instant of receiving them, by planning clandestine schemes of retaliation, and are or seem perfectly happy, when they have by the most consumate deception which they study from their infancy, overreach an enemy of their religion; be the acquisition ever so trifling, they retire to their dwellings with their ill acquired gains and exult in an achievement the perpetrator of which, with us, would be branded with infamy, and yet they are rather honest in their dealings with each other; it would be of little use for them to be otherwise, as they are continually on their guard, and when it sometimes happens that they ask an exorbitant price for their commodities, at the same time swearing that it cost them more, the other

answers do you imagine I am a gnu? A name by which they distinguish every denomination of people except themselves, and on whom they think it is lawful to prey when an opportunity serves. I have detected them in palpable falsehoods and in the committing of fraud, and have questioned them on the subject; they have always answered me—when they had no other subterfuge—that they were obliged to gain by their ingenuity what the Mohammedans exacted from them by force—the same is applicable to Christians—for they say the most flourishing and populous part of the world formerly belonged to their ancestors, that the different nations of the earth have usurped their dominions and have deprived them of their patrimony by force of arms; that in consequence they were reduced to their present situation by them, and that the property all nations enjoy, properly speaking, is theirs, as they have only been trading for a number of centuries upon the funds which formerly belonged to them; that both principal and interest being withheld from them by force, they imagine themselves justifiable in acquiring a part of their own by strategem and ingenuity; that their efforts have been crowned with a considerable share of success; that although they have very little landed property in the world, they have a great part of the cash among them, with which they make no doubt but they will be able to recover their former dignity among the nations of the earth in the fullness of time, when the great and glorious Messiah shall appear to their justification as a reward for their long and patient sufferings, and to the utter confusion of all the gnus, their present persecutors. I have been betrayed into a very long digression, my friend, unintentionally, and had near forgot to inform you that the Prophet who had been in the dumps during the whole time of the ramadan, and had not paid the least regard to the fastings and provisions of the true believers, was now so pleased with the persecution of his fellow men that he interceeded so effectually with the immortal Allah, that the windows of heaven were opened

should be no other alternative. I am with great respect and esteem, dear sir,

Your most obedient servant,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

By the Vasco de Gamma, Tunis.

TRIPOLI, Oct. 11, 1800.

William Eaton, Esq., Tunis.

Dear Sir:—On the 6th inst. arrived the Vasco de Gamma, Capt. Scanichi, a Portuguese 74, in 29 days from Gibralter, having taken the schooner Hamdullah with 75 Moors on board, from the Algerines, upon her passage. The Bashaw of Tripoli has purchased the schooner for $3,000, and has so maneuvored that he has got all the Moors clear and given the vessel up to the Algerine Rais, and intends to heave her down and fit her out completely and make a present to the Dey of Algiers. The Bashaw has acted with policy and generosity; you shall be informed of his motive at some other opportunity, suffice it to say it concerns us most minutely, and is by no means a favorable omen. Captain Scanichi informed me that there was an American frigate laying in the Bay of Algiers when they passed. I supposed it to be the ship Washington. You please to give the bearer, Hagi Shaban, when he returns to Tripoli, $500 to bring to me as I am very bad off, I assure you, for money, and charge me with three months salary in your account with the United States. If you have a better opportunity before Shaban returns you may, if convenient, send me a larger sum. Mr. O'Brien answers to my requisitions, although he has informed me that he has forwarded them to me. Now, between you and me, I do not imagine it is of any great consequence. My motives for asking his advice was more in compliance with my instructions than in hopes of reaping a benefit therefrom. The inclosed list you will please forward to

Algiers. No more Swedes have been taken since. I requested Mr. O'Brien to forward me duplicates of his opinion and advice as soon as possible; likewise, that our affairs are exactly in the same state as when I wrote him last, no more having been said upon the subject. The bearer of this says he departs this instant which hinders me from making any farther communications, and am in haste as you may see by my letter.

Yours sincerely,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

Malta is reported to be taken by the British, but no official accounts have yet arrived. Let me have some news.

TRIPOLI, Oct. 14, 1800.

Richard O'Brien, Esq.

Sir:—Yours of the 11th of August I received on the 14th of September, and yours of the 18th of July on the 20th of September. In yours of the 14th August you say "In answer to your questions numbers one, two and three, I have given you my answer and remarks on the affair." I have now to remark, sir, that I have never received them and think it extraordinary, as your other letters came safe. However an affair of such national importance certainly merits particular attention, and I make no doubt you have forwarded duplicates which I will receive in the fullness of time. Our affairs are in the same state as when I wrote you last, no more having been said on the subject; the Bashaw, I presume, either intends to wait until the President answers his letter, or until he settles his affairs with Sweden; this seems to me to be the most probable conjecture, but is by no means a certainty, as he is as capricious as Lady Fortune herself. On the 6th arrived the Vasco de Gamma, Capt Scanichi, a Portuguese 74, in 29 days from Gibraltar, having taken the schooner Hamdullah with 73

behaved ill to the inhabitants, entering their houses without leave and committing many depredations on their property. That the inhabitants armed and murdered all that were on shore to the number of 150, that the cruisers put to sea immediately, and on the Bashaw of Tripoli stating the case to the Dey of Algiers the captains of both Algerine cruisers were strangled.

This affair, trifling as it is, serves to show that Algerine influence is not so great here as has been represented. I should inform Mr. O'Brien of this transaction but dare not as he informs the Bacri of everything I write him and they write to Farfara, so that it behooves me to be very cautious in my correspondence. Mr. Farfara knows what I have written to Algiers, up to the 7th of July, as well as I do, even to so trifling a thing as the Bashaw's visits to me. Mr. O'Brien directed the Bacri to enquire of him whether it was true or not; neither is it my official duty and the Moor probably will publish it himself when he arrives at Algiers. Should he go by the way of Tunis I will write by him, and you will have an opportunity of interrogating him; be cautious and avoid from whom you have received your intelligence. I am, dear sir, with esteem

Your friend and servant,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

TRIPOLI, Feb. 19, 1800.

Hon. Timothy Pickering.

Dear Sir:—In a packet which I had the honor of forwarding to you, by Commodore Campbell, addressed to Mr. Smith at Lisbon, you will be informed of the most prominent transactions of this Government, since my arrival here, up to the first of January, 1800. The only one in which the United States were interested was the alterations which took place in our passports last August, of which I made a report

to our consul general at Algiers on the 20th of said month, and repeated on the 30th of October. Duplicates and triplicates of said alteration I have already forwarded to Col. Humphreys and Mr. Smith, to be forwarded to the Department of State renders a repetition at present unnecessary. I have not received an answer to mine from Algiers of the above dates, neither did I receive one to mine of the 7th of July until the 11th of January, and then it contained nothing to the purpose. I shall make no observations on Mr. O'Brien's mode of correspondence until I receive an answer to the above mentioned letters, when I will do myself the pleasure of forwarding copies of my requisitions and his answers to the Department of State. I am happy to inform you that our affairs with this Regency are in the same state of tranquility that they were when I wrote you last, and that no alteration whatever has taken place. I have the honor to be with respect and esteem, your very humble and

Obedient servant,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

TRIPOLI, Feb. 20, 1800.

Thomas Appleton, Esq., Leghorn.

Dear Sir:—In mine of the 24th of October, 1799, via Triest, I had the honor of enquiring after the state of your health, but not being favored with an answer makes me suppose my letter has miscarried. Give me leave at present to request you to forward the inclosed to the Department of State and to inform me what conveyance you have from Leghorn to America and Lisbon, as my correspondence with Government must inevitably be carried on through those places and Triest. I am happy to inform you that the affairs of the United States with this Regency are entirely settled, and that we enjoy perfect tranquility here at present. You will oblige me much by informing me what American ves-

sels, or vessels navigating under the American flag, have arrived at Leghorn since the departure of the French, and if there is any thing in this Regency that I can oblige you in, I request you to honor me with your command. I have nothing farther to inform you of worthy your attention, therefore subscribe myself with respect and esteem

Your most humble servant,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

TRIPOLI, Feb. 20, 1800.

Conrad F. Wagner, Esq., Consul of the U. S. at Triest.

Sir:—On the 27th of October last, I did myself the pleasure of informing you that we were in perfect tranquility with this Regency. I am now happy to have it in my power to inform you of the continuance thereof, as no alteration whatever has taken place. You will oblige me very much by informing me what vessels, under the American flag, have arrived lately at your place and from whence, as likewise what conveyance you have for letters to America, Lisbon and Hamburg, as I must inevitably correspond with the Department of State through those channels and that of Leghorn. If there is any thing in this Regency in which I can serve you, I hope you will command me without reserve. I am, sir, your most

Obedient servant,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

Via Leghorn.

TRIPOLI, March 21, 1800.

Hon. Timothy Pickering, Esq.

Dear Sir:—Since my last in January and February the navy of this Regency has been considerably reduced, a fine

polacca brig of 12 guns having captured an Imperial ship—which was lost through the ignorance of the Tripoline prize master—and having the crew of the aforesaid ship on board, fell in with the Grand Signore's fleet who took possession of her and sent her to Constantinople for adjudication. An English built ship, coppered and mounting 16 guns, was taken by the French and burnt, and a fine polacca mounting 18 guns ran on shore near Gallipoli and was entirely lost; this happened all in one cruise and has somewhat discouraged the Bashaw. By striking these three vessels off the list of the marine force of Tripoli, forwarded to you last January, you will see the remaining force which renders so many nations tributary, either directly of indirectly. On the 28th of February the Greek Imperial slaves were redeemed to the number of 35, and an Imperial brig was delivered up in consequence of a pressing demand from the Grand Signore, but the Bashaw will not refund the value of the cargoes condemned on various pretenses. Of course the Grand Turk will be obliged to indemnify the Emperor of Germany as stipulated by treaty. Nothing worthy notice has happened since my last. I am happy to inform you of our public tranquility, although the Bashaw is exceedingly jealous that we have given such large sums to the other two Regencies and so little to him. I hope that the arrival of our stores at Tunis will not awaken his avarice and occasion fresh demands upon us. I have before informed you that it is my opinion that our commerce will never be upon a respectable footing in the Mediterranean unless some of our frigates are stationed in these seas, and have power to act with vigor in case of emergency; that we may not be reduced to extremities shall be my constant care as far as remonstrance can prevail; but what can an individual effect where there is no justice to be obtained but by force of arms, nor any friendship exists but what is inspired by hopes of gain? The inclosed papers I have had by me for some time, and now forward them to Mr. Eaton, having

no opportunity from here to Europe—it is unnecessary for me to observe how anxious I am to hear from the Department of State. I am, my dear sir, with sentiments of greatest respect

Your humble servant,
JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

TRIPOLI, Apr. 18, 1800.

Hon. Timothy Pickering.

Dear Sir:—I had the honor of receiving yours of the 15th of January on the 13th inst., and am happy my conduct has been approved by the President. Yours to Mr. McDonogh I delivered to the British consul to forward to him, or to keep until his arrival. I have already informed you that he departed hence with Commodore Campbell last January, in order to solicit the Court of Portugal for the consulate of this Regency, having the Commodore's promise of recommendation. In consequence of the decease of our political father I sent my dragoman to inform the Bashaw that the next day I should hoist the banners of the United States half mast, the only token of respect which I had in my power to pay to the memory of our much beloved patriot, intending to wait a proper opportunity to communicate to him your intimation. The Bashaw sent me a very polite message expressing his concern for our loss, and requested to know if the President had received his letter which was forwarded in the Sophia. I answered him in the affirmative, and ordered the dragoman to inform his excellency that I would wait on him when he was at leisure. In the evening he sent Farfara to inform me that he was indisposed or would have been glad to have seen me, and requested that if I had any thing to impart, that I would communicate it to Farfara. I accordingly requested him to express to his excellency, the Bashaw, the President's satisfaction with the arrange-

ment that took place last year, and to assure him that he had never considered him as dependent upon either of the other Regencies, that he had always treated him as an Independent Prince and that the Government of the United States would always consider him with as much respect and treat him with the same friendship that they did the heads of the other Regencies. Farfara returned with the following answer. His excellency, the Bashaw, has desired me to request you to acquaint the President of the United States that he is exceedingly pleased with his proffers of friendship, that the respect that he has shown to his communications is really flattering, that had his protestations been accompanied with a frigate or brig of war, such as we had given the Algerines, that he would be still more inclined to believe them genuine, that compliments although acceptable were of very little value and that the heads of the Barbary States knew their friendship by the value of the presents which they received from them. It being too late for any answer that evening I made such comments on the Bashaw's message as might serve to eradicate from the mind of the Jew the most distant expectation that the President would ever make so great a sacrifice, which I informed him was entirely incompatible with the interest of the United States. On the 14th at sunrise the flag of the United States was hoisted half mast upon the Consular house, and was corresponded by all the consuls in Tripoli and all the Christian vessels in port, who all concurred in paying the last tribute of respect to the remains of our much beloved and respected hero. Considering it highly improper to delay giving a direct, explicit and categorical answer to the Bashaw's insinuation, I sent my dragoman to the castle to demand an audience, I having previously formed a resolution never to employ a third person whenever the honor or interest of my country was concerned. The dragoman informed me that his excellency had seen Farfara, and if I had any farther communications to make to employ him, as he was very much indisposed—thus was

I disappointed. Farfara waited upon me in the afternoon when I requested him to inform the Bashaw that if he supposed that the cruisers that were sent by our Government to Algiers were given gratuitously he had been misinformed, that during our negotiation last year I had acquainted him that the frigate was given to that Regency in lieu of cash, for the ransom of our citizens which had been redeemed on credit more than a year before the arrival of the frigate; that the cruisers were built on commission and paid for in cash out of the public treasury, and were not the property of the Dey as he supposed; that I had copies of their account by me which he should peruse if he thought proper, whereby he would be informed of the magnitude of his expectation, and the improbability of the United States having given them gratuitously; that I was sensible how disagreeable it would be to disappoint expectations when once formed; I therefore found it my duty to prevent any taking place in order to prevent the chagrin attending a positive refusal, which from the nature of the request must naturally be expected from the President of the United States. The Bashaw returned in answer that he had concluded a peace with the United States for less than he had received from other nations, and that he knew his friends by what he received from them. I shall by no means broach this subject to the Bashaw again, as I have hindered him from having the least grounds of expectation, and shall continue to act in the same manner should he ever make it a topic of conversation, as he can have no pretext to make a demand and only insinuates that he expects some mark of the President's friendship more substantial than compliments. I imagine it will be best to take no farther notice of it; the appearance of our frigates in the Mediterranean will, I hope, eradicate any expectation that he may have flattered himself with if any really exists, and until that period believe me, sir, our commerce will never be upon a respectable footing in those seas. The appearance of the yellow fever last year in our capital

is exceedingly distressing; there is no accounting for those awful dispensations of Providence—their frequent visits really threaten Philadelphia with depopulation. That it may please the just disposer of all sublunary events to put a stop to its most cruel ravages is the most fervent prayer of, dear sir,

Your humble servant,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

TRIPOLI, Apr. 19, 1800.

Richard O'Brien, Esq.

Sir:—Yours of the 13th of December, 13th of January and 8th of March, as well as the copy of your letter to Consul Eaton of the 8th of January, came to hand on the 13th inst., as did yours of the 29th of October, on the 11th of January and of the 24th of November, on the 4th of February. The rest of your communications have already been acknowledged and shall be attended to as far as is in my power, and is consistent with my official duty and the honor and interest of the United States. I thank you for the information they contain relative to Algiers, but I am much afraid the policy of Europe, at this crisis, will not admit of any thing decisive being attempted, and if a total eclipse does not take place much better for the planets to remain stationary. You know the bad effect the failure of the Spanish, Venitian and Danish expeditions has had on the negotiations of other nations with the Barbary States, especially at Algiers. I consider those transactions and the peaces which were the consequent result of their want of energy to be the principal cause of the humiliating situation nations have since been reduced to. The extension of commerce is the only motive which induces the nations of the earth to submit to their impositions, and they find that

bribery and corruption answers their purpose better, and is attended with less expense than a noble retaliation; thus no nation wishes to become the Don Quixote of the world, to be at the whole expense of an armament, while their neighbors would be reaping the benefit even in a greater degree than they could expect themselves; for commerce, like a copious river, when once thrown out of its channel takes a considerable time to regain its course. I do not mean that nations should leave their commerce entirely unprotected; on the contrary in my communications to Government I have given it as my opinion that our commerce will never be on a respectable footing in the Mediterranean until some of our frigates are stationed in those seas; and Col. Pickering informs me, in his of the 15th of January, that it is highly probable that some of our vessels of war will make their appearance on these coasts in the spring or ensuing summer. In addition to the official list of our growing navy, which is really flattering, he informs me that materials are collecting for the building of six sail of 74 gun ships. Thus has the temporary calamities of our country—the capture of our vessels by the Algerines and the present disturbance with France—ultimately redounded to the true interests of America, by carrying a grand point in our legislature, which will be of infinitely greater use to posterity than any loss the present generation has or will sustain, and which never would have been the case had these calamities not existed, as there is no proportion between our landed and mercantile interests. I am exceedingly happy to inform you that Mr. Eaton's and my conduct at Tunis, has been fully approved by Government, and the Secretary of State has informed me that my negotiation with Tripoli has been conducted in a manner highly satisfactory to the President. I shall endeavor to merit a continuance of their approbation—the result I hope will prove their confidence not misplaced. It is now probable that I may remain here some time unless some unforseen accident intervenes, which on my part I

shall take every means to avert. It is undoubtedly the right of every citizen employed in the service of the United States to recommend prudence and economy in the appropriation and expenditure of public money. To me you will for the future deem it superfluous when you are informed that I have and always shall endeavor to maintain a character free from blemish, which to me is infinitely dearer than life or any other consideration. You say the United States are made tributary—although this term is misapplied—since the commencement of my administration; so they must remain, as I shall never hesitate a moment in expending or giving such trifles as may be required of me to gratify the requests of the Bashaw. As I have not set the precedent, it being followed by the consuls of every nation at peace with this Regency, and as I have documents for all my proceedings, the foresaid insinuation reduced me to the humiliating necessity of receiving a certificate from Farfara, of the necessity of making similar sacrifices, if $200 or $300 a year to maintain the peace of a nation may be deemed such. However, I shall continue to act as I have done until I receive orders from the Government under whom I act to the contrary, and if ever my conduct should be disapproved, which I will endeavor to prevent, you may depend in my justification—I shall behave with becoming dignity. As a proof that I have not been extravagant, you may recollect that the presents which were given on the circumcision of the Bashaw's youngest son, Ciddi Aly, were saved from the consular present the value of about $70.00, and had those presents not been saved it would have cost the United States more than double the sum that has been expended since, besides it is attended with this consequence that the consular present for the future will be reduced to the articles which I gave on the occasion of my reception only, and the trifles which has rendered the United States tributary would still have been expended in the same channel. Thus far I hope I have avoided the imputation of extravagance. The Bashaw's

agent on similer demands generally is Farfara; for instance some time ago the Spanish charge-des-affairs and myself bought a Parmesan cheese between us—the Bashaw sent to me to taste it. I sent him some, he liked it, then sent to the Spaniard for half of his share; likewise, afterwards, he sent Farfara to ask me for my fowling piece, as he said his was broke. I gave it him. Could I have done otherwise? Should I have said "I like the cheese myself and won't give you a morsel; and the fowling piece is for my own use, I can not spare it." Would I by so doing be following the dictates of reason, or endeavoring to obtain the end I am here for? I think not. Do you imagine the loss of the above articles, as well as all the rest that have been distributed, is not of infinite more consequence to me than their value is to Government? That I should make such sacrifices out of my salary is impossible, and I have too great an opinion of the equity of our Government to suppose they desire it. You farther say "You that are so well skilled in Barbary affairs might, when you were in Philadelphia, have submitted such propositions to the Secretary of State, they would be more your official duty to do than other propositions which you submitted that was not in your department."

Whatever submissions I made to the Secretary of State were always politely answered, and it is by no means your (O'Brien's) official duty to dictate to me what propositions I ought to make to Government; had they not been in my department or worthy of consideration they would not have merited the attention of Government, and that you formerly considered me at least as well skilled in Barbary affairs as yourself, the following extract from your letter, which I have by me with many others, will plainly prove to all impartial observers, though at the time I received it I little thought I would ever be reduced to the necessity of so disagreeable a reference.

Extract of a letter from Mr. O'Brien to Mr. Cathcart during their captivity at Algiers, dated Nov. 12, 1794.

Dear Sir:—I intended to write you a few lines at the time I should deliver for your perusal and inspection, my remarks and observations; indeed you will perceive they are in the rough, therefore I by no means expect they are fully correct but at all events I have been determined you shall peruse them; but, sir, I will tell you candidly that I was determined and shall always be of the same opinion not to let the Swedes peruse them, as it would be feeding the vanity and adding to the consequence of those who think all knowledge on Algerine affairs are only known by themselves. They may know their own affairs, but depend no consul or other person, strangers in Algiers, knows much on American affairs. I have always told you that every man is guided by some secret and inward mind for every action he does; outwardly he seems to be different from what he is inwardly (as O'Brien's conduct verified a few years after.) I assure you, sir, in my opinion, and I do not call this flattering, that I consider you the first American in Algiers. You have very extensive abilities, I hope they will hereafter be the means to bring you well forward for what period the Almighty should please to leave you in this world. As to my part I have passed the meridian of life; in my youthful days my assistants were only the primer or spelling book, Esop's fables and Vorter's arithmetic; come to sea with the Bible and mariner's compass; studied a few gazetta reading—these, sir, have been the assistants of your

Most humble servant,

RICHARD O'BRIEN.

Algiers, Nov. 12, 1794.

In mine of the 7th of July, after stating the capture and release of the Swedes and Danes, I asked your advice how I should act should a similar case of our own take place; you have sent me word how you have acted but by no means in

cases similar to the Danes and Swedes, by which it seems you have done as well as you could. I will do the same, but to say I proposed to expend money for every vessel the cruisers should send in is a great mistake of yours. For asking me if I found it impossible to clear them by fair means, whether I should come in person to Algiers to solicit the interference of the Dey, or if their cargoes should be condemned whether I should submit, as the Swedes had done, or try to bribe the Bashaw in order that he might clear them as he has done the Danes. I observe in that case would it not be encouraging him to authorize the cruisers to commit greater depredations on our commerce? This is a pointed disapprobation on my part, of the measure expressed in such a manner as not to have the appearance of dictating to you, but of submitting my opinion to the decision of your judgment; but it seems you did not choose to understand me. The insinuations contained in your letter of the 28th of May, as well as what was contained in your letter to Mr. McDonogh of the 1st of June, requires no answer, as my conduct has been fully approved by the Government under whom I hold my commission which is sufficient satisfaction to me. I am happy the manner in which I have acted relative to the passports coincides with your opinion on the subject, more especially as it is the first transaction of mine that has been honored with your approbation since my arrival in Barbary. Finally, sir, I shall continue at all times to give you such information as will enable you to form an exact idea of the state of our affairs in this Regency, as I should conceive myself unworthy the trust reposed in me by Government should I for one moment permit any thing personal to interfere with my official communications; but at the same time I find it incumbent on me to observe, that as I pay every gentleman with whom I have any correspondence the respect due to their rank in life, so on my part do I expect the most scrupulous reciprocity. I should have acknowledged before this time your last but have been occu-

pied, almost since my arrival, in collecting the particulars of the reign of Aly Bashaw, the father of the present Bashaw, which commenced in the year 1756 and which I have brought down to the commencement of the present reign, including the whole of the revolution, and intend to continue it if I have time; duplicates of the same I have forwarded to the Department of State, as well as a translation of an abridgement of the history of the conquest and revolutions in the Kingdom of Fezzan from the Arabic, which with the commercial history of Tripoli and account of the Bashaw's revenues, which I have forwarded in triplicates, has kept me constantly employed. Col. Pickering has informed me that the Sophia was loaded with a very rich cargo, and that other vessels would be sent out to Algiers and Tunis with ample cargoes to answer all our emergencies there; consequently in answering my bills for the future you will not be put to any inconvenience. Capt. Smith ungenerously refused to take on board some tea, coffee and sugar, and sundry small stores for my use, alledging there was no room, although the Secretary of State politely advanced the money for their purchase. This was occasioned by my correspondent's delicacy in not wishing to trouble him for an order for their embarkation; I shall endeavor to have abuses reformed by representing them. I don't recollect any thing more at present worthy of notice. I am, sir,

Your most obedient servant,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

This letter was forwarded by Rais Mazahond el Haddaa to Tunis, with the following note and my original dispatch to be forwarded by Mr. Eaton to their destinations.

TRIPOLI, 25th May, 1800.

Richard O'Brien, Algiers.

Sir:—Notwithstanding the haste I made to write the inclosed letter, I was too late to forward it by a vessel that

sailed for Tunis on the day of its date until this inst. I have not had an opportunity since the arrival of the ship Hero at Tunis. The Bashaw has given me a great deal of trouble, he is piqued that more has been given to Tunis than to him; he wants a present which I have in express terms denied. He informs me that he intends to write to the President on the subject. As it is impossibe to give you a just idea of the maneuver without reading the whole dispatch, I will forward a copy via Algiers, open for your perusal, as soon as I receive the promised letter to forward. If our Government does not send a sufficient force into the Mediterranean to protect our trade, you may depend we will share the fate of the Danes, Swedes, Ragusians and Imperials. I am, sir,

Your humble servant,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

I have inserted this letter here not to interrupt the thread of the narrative contained in the following dispatch:

TRIPOLI, April 20, 1800.

William Eaton, Esq.

My Dear Sir:—I received yours of the 7th of February, 22nd and 30th of March on the 13th inst., with the sundry letters inclosed. Mr. Pickering informs me that my negotiation with the Bashaw of Tripoli has been conducted in a manner very satisfactory to the President. On the 14th the nags of all the powers at peace with this Regency were hoisted on the consular houses until sunset half mast, the only tribute besides a tear I had in my power to pay to the memory of our much lamented hero. The Christian vessels in the port paid the United States the same token of respect. Alas, what is man?

In your next please inform me if your charge for an outfit has been admitted, as I intended drawing for mine; but you know how mortifying it would be to have my bill protested at Algiers. The request in mine of the 19th of March I hope

you will not neglect, as it is of more consequence than probably may be imagined. There are some things for me in the Hero, what they are I don't know; take what part you please and send me the rest. A large package of newspapers is at Algiers for me—I could have wished they were here. I have no news whatever—in my next I will write more fully. I am, with real esteem,

Your friend and humble servant,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

I have received my note for $500 which you have returned.

TRIPOLI, May 12, 1800.

Hon. Timothy Pickering, Secretary of State.

Sir:—Give me leave to inform you in addition to mine of the 18th of April, copy of which is inclosed in dispatch number one, that on the 21st of said month a board of consuls was called by the Bashaw relative to the affairs of Sweden, in order to palliate as much as possible his depredations and unjust demand upon that nation. As I have already forwarded to you the particulars of their last arrangements I at present refer you to the copy of the certificate number two inclosed, for the result. During the course of conversation the Bashaw observed that he never made reprisals on any nation, or declared war but in consequence of their promises being unfulfilled, or for want of due respect being shown him; that he conceived himself entitled to the same respect that was shown to the Bashaws of Algiers and Tunis, but that some nations gave more to the officers in those Regencies than they had given to him for their peace. This last remark was evidently pointed to the United States, but as it was made in general terms I thought proper not to seem to understand it, especially as I could say very little

more on the subject than what I had already communicated to him through the agency of Signore Farfara.

On the 2nd of May a courier arrived from Tunis, who bought me a copy of your letters of the 15th January, which arrived in the ship Hero; before I had time to read them Farfara came and informed me that the Bashaw wanted to see me immediately. I asked him if he knew what his excellency wanted; he said he did not, that he had received letters from Tunis and seemed very much irritated. It being late in the evening I waited on him in dishabille when the following conversation took place which I have endeavored to render verbatim: "You have received letters from America—how were they brought to Tunis." In a vessel direct from America. "What is her business at Tunis?" She has brought the stores stipulated by treaty with that Regency. "What do they consist of?" I do not know the particular articles which compose her cargo, but it chiefly consists of lumber and articles such as were promised to your excellency when our peace took place. "What does your letters from your Government contain?" They are merely copies of what I had already received, the contents of which your excellency was informed of by Farfara—this being a favorable opportunity to know whether our broker had acted with candor—I repeated what is contained in mine of the 18th of April, and found by the Bashaw's answers, which were exactly what Farfara had before informed me, that he had acted honestly. The Bashaw observed that the United States had made liberal presents to Algiers and Tunis, that he was informed of the particulars of all our negotiations, that he even had a list of the cargo that had arrived at Tunis, that it is worth a treasure. "Why do not the United States send me a voluntary present? They have acted with me as if they did every thing against their will; first they solicited the interference of the Dey of Algiers, in consequence of which I concluded a peace with them for almost nothing in comparison to what I have received from other nations, I

having received many favors from Hassan Bashaw during the continuance of the revolution in this kingdom. They next made me wait more than two years before they sent their consul, and he came without the stipulated stores; nevertheless, in order to convince them of my good and friendly intentions toward them, I accepted of the small sum of $18,000 in lieu thereof not doubting but they would be grateful enough to make me some return for my civility; but I have now the mortification to be informed that they have now sent a ship load of stores to Tunis, besides promising a present of jewels, and to me they have sent compliments; but I have cruisers as well as Tunis, and as good Raises and sailors; I am an independent Prince as well as the Bey of Tunis, and I can hurt the commerce of any nation as much as the Tunisians; why then should so great a difference be made?" From the tenor of the Bashaw's harangue I perceived that his aim was to intimidate me to say something that might hereafter be interpreted into a promise of a present, the value of which he would probably dictate himself; I therefore answered him as follows: Whatever information your excellency has received relative to the value of the presents or stores which have been given to Tunis, it has been amazingly exaggerated; we have never made any but what were stipulated by treaty, neither can we ever make voluntary presents, it being incompatible with our form of government, the funds of the United States not being at the disposal of the President until an appropriation is made by an act of the legislature; the funds for carrying our treaty into effect with Tripoli are exhausted, and last year your excellency wrote to the President of the United States that you were contented with what you had already received; you therefore in justice could not expect any at present from the United States but a reciprocal tender of friendship. Had your excellency preferred the stores in cash, and had waited with patience until they were forwarded, as the Bey of Tunis has done, I am convinced they would

have arrived long ere now; but at present as the United States have fulfilled the stipulations of the treaty, they are not in arrears to this Regency, and any demands from them must naturally be very unexpected. The Bashaw observed is was late, had coffee served and said he would converse with me at some other opportunity. I wished him a very good evening. May 4th Ciddi Mohamed Daguize and Signore Farfara came to the American house and informed me that the Bashaw had ordered them to ask me if I had taken my resolution in consequence of the conversation which I had with them on the 2nd inst.? I informed them that I had taken none whatever, and that it seemed unaccountable to me that his excellency should expect any other answer after what I had informed him in their presence; they staid about an hour, during which time their conversation tended to persuade me that considering the Bashaw's character, it was certainly the interest of the United States to make a sacrifice that otherwise it would be impossible to remain longer on good terms with him. I made use of the same arguments which I had done before, I will therefore not tire you with a repetition. At 6 p. m. they returned and informed me that the Bashaw was very much displeased, and had ordered them to acquaint me that he was informed that the Sahibtappa at Tunis had more than $40,000 from the United States in cash besides presents; that he had received very little more, and that he had never imagined the United States meant to put him on an equality with one of the Bey of Tunis's ministers. I observed that the Bashaw was misinformed by his correspondent who in order to ingratiate himself in his favor had informed him of things that never had taken place, that he was giving himself, as well as them and me, a great deal of trouble without any hopes of reaping the least benefit thereof. That I requested them to inform his excellency that I had not power to offer him a dollar, and that there were no funds in the United States appropriated for maintaining our peace with Tripoli, as we had

carried our treaty into effect already. That he had written to the President of the United States, the Dey of Algiers and Bey of Tunis, that he had settled with the agent of the United States, and had received a cash payment in lieu and in full of all demands, and that he was content. That only three years and a half had elapsed since our treaty commenced, that the first year he had received $40,000 in cash, and the value of $8,000 in presents. That the second year he had received $12,000, and that last year he had received $18,000, and presents to the value of $4,000 more. That on the circumcision of his son, Ciddi Aly, I had made him a present superior to the presents which were made by the consuls of other nations on like occasions. That consequently the Government of the United States were not deficient either in respect to him or tokens of friendship, as he had received in the short period of three years and a half cash and presents to the amount of $83,000, exclusive of 10,000 measures of grain of which Hassan Bashaw had made him a present, in consequence of his having concluded a treaty with the United States, which was worth at Tripoli near $20,000 more. That I was persuaded that if his excellency would give himself the trouble to reflect on the circumstances which had taken place since the commencement of the treaty between the United States and this Regency, that he would not hesitate a moment in acknowledging the justness and propriety of my observations.

A gun was fired from the castle to announce the commencement of the Mussulmans' grand festival, which put an end to our conversation. May 5 at Meridian, Ciddi Mohammed Daguize and Farfara waited upon me, the same subject was reassumed, the same arguments were used, and after more than an hour's discussion the same effects were produced, ie. the Bashaw . insists on having presents. I as strongly opposed the demand as being most unjust, and alleged my want of power to comply with it as a sufficient excuse for the arguments which I had used dur-

ing the discussion. In the evening the Bashaw's emissaries returned and informed me, that they had encountered great difficulty in persuading the Bashaw to believe that the consul had not power to make him a present without an express order from his Government. His excellency said that he had received many presents from the consuls of other nations, and that their conduct had afterwards been approved; they observed that the form of Government of the United States was vastly different from the government of every other nation with whom his excellency was at peace. That he had a recent example that the powers of a consul were limited in the result of the Swedish consul's negotiation, he having arranged the affairs of his nation without receiving orders from his court. That he knew the consequence was his bills were protested, he had received a severe reprimand from the King of Sweden, and was immediately superseded, and that his excellency might depend that the American consul would take care never to be reduced to a similar predicament, whatever might be the consequence of his non-compliance with his excellency's demand. They farther informed me that the Bashaw had ordered them to request me to write to my Government to inform them that when I had written to the President of the United States that he was contented with what he had received; that he was really so on a supposition that the presents, which had been given to him, bore some proportion to those that had been promised to Tunis; that at present he was informed to the contrary, and that he felt himself amazingly hurt when he considered that he had been treated with indifference, and that he would never be convinced that the friendship of the United States was sincere until there was a greater equality observed in their donations to the two Regencies; or, in other words, until he received some further mark of the President's esteem more substantial than mere compliments. They said that although the Bashaw was inclined to credit the impossibility of the

consul making him presents without orders from his court, that he likewise was sensible how much depended on the manner of his representation, that he believed he had treated him with every respect since his arrival at Tripoli, and he requested that I would write in such terms as would insure him from the mortification of being disappointed, adding this he expected from the consul, as he values my future favor and a happy result to the objects of his mission. I replied that the object contemplated by the United States in sending an agent the vast distance of near 6,000 miles, was to endeavor to maintain a friendly intercourse between the two nations on honorable and equitable terms; that as it had pleased God to employ me as the instrument to promote so desired an effect, that he might rest assured that I should take pleasure in representing facts for the consideration of Government, in as favorable a manner as the dignity annexed to my office would admit; that it would be the height of presumption in me to dictate to the President of the United States what he ought to do in the present case. So on the other hand I, by no means, considered it to be a part of my official duty in any manner to oppose the liberal intentions of Government, should they be disposed to make him a present, but on the contrary should I secure orders to that effect I would take pleasure in executing them, but must again beg leave to repeat that the issue depended on them only. They retired to make a faithful report to his excellency, protested they would use their influence in favor of the United States, and requested me not to close my letters until I heard further from the Bashaw, either direct or through their agency. May 6th I waited on the Bashaw to pay my compliments to him in consequence of the festival; he treated me with great politeness, but I could easily discern that it was against his inclination; there was something in his countenance that indicated his smiles were not sincere and ought not to be depended on. May 10th Farfara came to the American house and informed me that

the Bashaw had concluded to write to the President of the United States himself, as he entertained some suspicions that I would not write to Government with sufficient energy. That the Bashaw would send me his letter the first opportunity that should present to forward it which he hoped I had no objection to do. I replied none in the least, and requested Farfara to procure me a copy, if possible, which he promised to do; having waited until the date of this dispatch without having heard anything more on the subject, I hasten to get my dispatches in readiness to forward by the first conveyance. Should anything intervene worthy of notice before I receive the Bashaw's letter, it shall be the subject of another dispatch. Presuming that I have acted as well as circumstances would admit, I beg leave to subscribe myself with sentiments of the greatest respect, sir,

Your most obedient servant,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

TRIPOLI, May 15, 1800.

Hon. Timothy Pickering.

Sir:—By the inclosed dispatch you will be informed of the manner the Bashaw takes to levy contributions on the nations with which he is at peace. He is a faithless man on whom no dependence ought to be placed. He has, since my arrival here, committed depredations on every nation that has a treaty with this Regency, the British excepted. I am of opinion that considering the improbability of Malta ever assuming the same form of Government that it was formerly under, joined to this Regency, being at peace with Portugal and having the whole western ocean to range in, that it will be expedient for the United States to make him a voluntary present, as he has condescended to beg his pride will be so much interested that he would hazard a great deal to gratify his revenge should he be disappointed. I am

of opinion that less than $10,000 will not answer any essential purpose; that sum probably may keep him quiet for four or five years. If the President should agree with me in opinion I presume that the cash, or the value of the above sum in naval stores, ought to be sent here in one of our largest frigates, and if there are more of our ships of war in the Mediterranean they ought to make their appearance at the same time, to let the Bashaw see that we are not destitute of force, to oblige him to observe his treaty with us inviolate. A Portuguese ship of 64 guns burnt one of his ships, took his Admiral, and concluded a treaty of peace with the loss of a boat and one man only, and made him pay them a sum of money. I am persuaded that two of our frigates, and four boats capable of carrying a 12 pounder in each of their bows, is a sufficient force not only to bring the Bashaw to our own terms but likewise to burn every ship he has under his own forts. That we must keep some of our ships of war in the Mediterranean to protect our trade is inevitable, but if they have not power to retaliate on this faithless miscreant, if ever he should capture any of our vessels in what relates to this Regency, they had better stay away. This appears to me to be the season for our Government to determine whether they will suffer the commerce of the United States to be subject to the unwarrantable depredations of this contemptible pirate, or by a well timed energy intimidate him and his successors from daring to insult our flag. Justice, equity, or the faith of treaties, are the worst words in the world to found an argument on. In this city we must maintain our peace with bags of gold or cannon balls. It only remains for Government which in future they will prefer. I am, sir, with the greatest respect and esteem,

Your most humble servant,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

Malta, while under the Government of the Grand Master, was by its local situation as well as constitution the bulwark

of Christendom against the depredations of the Tripolines. Their corsairs seldom made two cruises before they were either captured or destroyed; at present they have not any thing to oppose them from the Archipelagos to Cape Ortegal except the French and pusillanimous Neapolitans. This was forwarded in cypher in duplicates. The triplicate was sent via Leghorn.

TRIPOLI, May 27, 1800.

Hon. Timothy Pickering.

Sir:—Since the date of the inclosed dispatch I have heard nothing from the Bashaw until the evening of the 25th inst., when Ciddi Mohammed Daguize sent me the original, of which the inclosed is a literal translation. The only conclusion which can be drawn from the Bashaw's proceedings is that he wants a present, and if he does not get one he will forge pretenses to commit depredations on the property of our fellow citizens. His letter to the President will be the means of keeping him quiet until he receives an answer, provided no unnecessary delay is made, as he will expect to reap a benefit therefrom. Should Government think proper to make him a present it will have the desired effect probably for one year but not longer; I therefore can see no alternative but to station some of our frigates in the Mediterranean, otherwise we will be continually subject to the same insults which the Imperials, Danes, Swedes and Ragusans have already suffered, and will still continue to suffer if they do not keep a sufficient naval force in this sea to protect their trade, notwithstanding the Danes and Swedes have promised to pay this Regency $15,000 each, every three years, either in cash or naval stores at the option of the Bashaw. It would, no doubt, be a desirable object for Government to be informed whether cash or stores would be most acceptable, and what might be the amount of the Bashaw's expecta-

tions; but I think it would be a very imprudent question for me to ask lest he should extend them beyond the probability of their being complied with; it is therefore in my opinion much better to let it remain as it is at the option of the President, for the truth is both cash and stores by way of presents would be equally acceptable; for the value of which, by conjecture, I refer you to my letter in cypher. Farfara informs me that the Bashaw expects to receive an answer from the President himself, as he receives the same token of respect from the chiefs of every nation with whom he corresponds. He likewise has hinted, that although he had not it in his power to be of any service to the United States on my arrival at Tripoli, that he has it now, and will always use his influence in favor of the United States. The fact is he has it in his power to do us much harm, and it is prudent to be on the best terms with him *pour sa il faut l'argent.* I have filed the original letter from the Bashaw in this office in order to have it to produce if necessary. I will endeavor to procure a copy, but a bark sails today for Tunis, which obliges me to close my dispatches immediately, presuming that they may arrive in time to be forwarded in the ship Hero. I am sir, with greatest respect and esteem your most

Humble and obedient servant,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

Traduzione di Lettera Scritta da S. E. il Bascia di Tripoli a S. E. il Presidente degli Stati Uniti di America:

Sia Lode a cui e dovuto il solo unico ed onnipotente che non a compagno ne mogli ne figlie Cioe Dio.

Dello Schiavo d'Iddio perfetto Prinscipe dei fedelli diffensore della Lege, Gueriero secondo il divin volere Lo Schiavo d'Iddio Jouseph Bascia figilo di Aly Bascia figlio di Mohammed Bascia figlio di Hamed Bascia Caramanli,

Commandante del preservato Cantone di Tripoli di pomente proteta da qualunque Insulto ed oltraggio.

Premissi li piu cordiali saluti, e le piu offettuosi espressione d'amicizia, Cordialita, ed attaccamento all' inclito nella Nazione di Cristo, Eccelso fra gli Americani il nostro Amico il Presidente degli Stati Uniti d'America a cui Iddio accordi la di Lui protezione, e con celo l'esaurizione delle di lui brame.

Dopo d'aver coltivati li rame del nostro affetto ed a gevolati lo vie della buona corrispondenza e perfetta amicizia che desideriamo sia sempre persistente ed Eterna, le facciamo sapere che l'oggetto del presente nostro scritto ed il contenuto nel medesimo e qualmente il loro Console che resieda opresso di noi nel loro servizio ci ha comunicato nel di Lei nome che ella li scrisse una lettera con li pui piacevole espressione dicendogli che loro riguardano il Cantone di Tripoli simile agli altre Cantone e con l'Istessa amicizia e premura per vincolare sempre pui le vie della leuona corrispondenza.

Benedisca Iddio perfetto a lei e le conceda la di sui alta protezione. Ma o nostro sincero Amico voressi mo da lei che queste espressione fossero seguiti con fatti e promessi e non parole e Lusinghe, onde se loro procureranno di contentarci con, un leuon procedere. Noi pure le corrisponderemo con, equale amicizia tanto con parole che con fatti, ma se cio non sono che lusinghe senza effetto, ogni uno fara quello che le conviene pregandolo di una solecita risposta senza trascuranza mentre un ritardo dal canto loro non sarebbe che trascurare le loro proprie interesse mentre le auguriamo Felicita..

Data in Tripoli di Barbaria, li 29 di delhegia l'anno dell' Egira 1214, che corrisponde li 25 Maggio 1800.

Fradutta pedelmente da me sotto scritto Interprete Pubblico dal suo originale scritto per ordine di S. E. il Bassa.

Tripoli di Barbaria, 27 Maggio, 1800. Firmato.

LEON FARFARA.

Forwarded quadruplicates of the original to Mr. Eaton; duplicates to do, to be sent to Algiers with duplicates of the dispatch, open for Mr. Eaton and O'Brien's perusal; to be forwarded via Mr. Smith at Lisbon, to the Department of State. Triplicates of this letter forwarded to Mr. Appleton, at Leghorn by Mr. Lochner, with my letter dated Aug. 14th, and the marine force of Tripoli, written by Farfara. Triplicate of the whole dispatch and quadruplicate of the Bashaw's ship la ma di Buon Consiglio.

TRIPOLI, May 30th,, 1800.

Hon. Timothy Pickering.

Sir:—The translation in the original dispatch is in the hand writing of Leon Farfara, and was inclosed to Mr. Eaton and forwarded in a boat to Tunis on the 27th inst.; in the evening of the same day the Bashaw sent a chaoux for the original in Arabic, saying he wanted to send me another copy of it. I sent it to Farfara to give it to him, who had it to translate, and I have heard nothing of it since; fearing some deception I have taken the precaution to register the translation from Farfara's hand writing in his Majesty's Libro, port folio 142. I am, sir, with much respectful esteem your

Most humble servant,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

TRIPOLI, May 27, 1800.

William Eaton, Esq.

My Dear Eaton:—Inclosed with this is a packet for the Department of State of much importance, inclosed in which is a letter from the Bashaw of Tripoli to the President of the United States. You will please to forward it by the safest

conveyance. I am now preparing duplicates to forward to Leghorn, as a vessel sails from here in a day or two. I therefore request you to excuse the abruptness with which I subscribe myself most cordially

Your friend,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

The wind being to the westward has given me an opportunity of sending this by Rais Masaboud, unto whom you will please give two dollars and charge it to the account of the United States.

In this was inclosed the original dispatch.

TRIPOLI, May 31, 1800.

Richard O'Brien, Esq.

Sir:—By the inclosed dispatch, which I have forwarded open for your perusal, you will be informed of the state of our affairs in this Regency, full as well as if you were on the spot. If the Bashaw grows impatient before answers arrive from America, I would be glad to have your opinion and advice on the subject of what plan you may think most likely to promote the interests of the United States. I likewise request you to give categorical answers to the following questions:

1.—Whether it would not be to the interest of the United States to make the Bashaw a present to content at least until some of our frigates come into the Mediterranean; if in the affirmative to what amount ought the present to be made, that is supposing there is no alternative?

2.—Should any of our vessels be sent in here on any pretense whatever, and their cargoes condemned, how would you advise me to act? After such a violation of our treaty shall I refuse the cruisers of Tripoli American passports, or shall I issue them as if nothing had happened?

3.—Do you imagine the Dey of Algiers would send four

or five of his cruisers here to demand any American vessel that might be captured, and if he would, would it not cost the United States more to fee him than to content the Bashaw of Tripoli?

I am of the opinion that if the Dey of Algiers would take the above step that he would succeed, but all the letters in the world would at most only procure civil answers, mixed with his own prevarication. Whatever steps you may judge necessary to take in the present state of our affairs, let no consideration for my personal safety influence your deliberations, or sympathy for my situation hinder you from taking such measures as will, if possible, effectually hinder our flag from being insulted, and consequently promote the interests of our fellow citizens. I consider myself, while I eat my country's bread, to be in a similar situation to an advanced picket of an army, and should consider myself equally as infamous as a sentinel that deserted his post in time of alarm, should I for a moment consult my own ease when the honor and interests of my country are at stake. The inclosed dispatches, or copies of them I think, you had better forward to Lisbon and request Mr. Smith's opinion on the subject. I imagine unanimity in the opinions of the three consuls in Barbary will be thought sufficient by Government to justify any step that might be found necessary to be taken by either, to preserve our country's peace, which opinion joined by Mr. Smith or Col. Humphreys would infallibly insure the approbation of the President; for my own part I am under no apprehension to the contrary. I shall be happy to receive your answer as soon as possible. I am, sir,

Your very humble servant,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

My Dear Eaton:—The inclosed dispatch you will please forward to Algiers as soon as possibe, and give me your

opinion of the whole proceeding as well as the questions which I have asked O'Brien. I sent the original of this dispatch to Tunis on the 27th inst. by a boat commanded by Rais Masahoud el Haddad, who will deliver them to you. The Ragusan which has my things on board has arrived and is in quarantine, for what reason I know not, she having a clean bill of health. Mrs. Cathcart and child are both unwell; the Jewess has been sick and left us three days ago, and we can not get a female servant of any sort. This is the situation of dear sir,

Your unfeigned friend,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

Tripoli, May 31, 1800.

Tripoli, Aug. 14, 1800.

Hon. Timothy Pickering.

Sir:—Exceeding bad health attended with temporary blindness, since my last dispatch of the 30th of May, has been the occasion of my not forwarding triplicates of the said letters, which I will endeavor to do as soon as I am sufficiently recovered; duplicates I have already forwarded to Algiers merely in compliance with a clause in my instructions. At present I have only to inform you that nothing whatever has transpired since my last; the Bashaw still retains the original of the letter to the President, of which the inclosed is a translation, and I do not intend to trouble him for it; his keeping it furnishes me with an answer should he demand any before I receive orders from the President. On the 2nd of June, Mr. Nyssen arrived here in order to supersede the late Danish consul, Mr. Lochner; he was kept on board in the same villainous manner that I was, until the 4th in the afternoon for the following reason: When Admiral Fisher adjusted the affairs of Denmark with this Regency in 1797, it seems that he agreed that the Danes

should pay to this Regency the sum of $15,000 every four years, either in cash or maratine and military stores at the option of the Bashaw, and that it was proposed at that time to be made an article of the treaty, to which the Admiral objected as being humiliation, but expressed a desire to have a separate agreement made out, which was promised by the Bashaw but never performed. About two months before the arrival of Mr. Nyssen the Bashaw sent a message to Mr. Lochner desiring him to pay the stipulated present in cash immediately. Mr. Lochner answered that he should be paid when the time expired, that it yet wanted eighteen months of becoming due. The Bashaw flew into a passion, swore the agreement was made exactly as the Swedes had made theirs, that is $15,000 to become payable every three years, and if the consul did not promise to pay it immediately that he would declare war against Denmark. Mr. Lochner requested the Bashaw to wait until the arrival of the new consul, who was on his passage, when he made no doubt this affair would be settled to the satisfaction of the Bashaw. Mr. Nyssen therefore before he was permitted to land was obliged to promise that the sum of $15,000 should become payable every three years for the future. On Mr. Nyssen presenting his consular present which was valued at $4,000 the Bashaw spurned at it, and drew out an old book wherein he said was a list of the articles which composed the consular present in the time of his grand father, and which amounted to double the value of the consular present given now by the nations with whom this Regency is at peace. Mr. Nyssen used every argument in his power in order to evade increasing the value of the present but without effect; he was obliged to make a considerable addition and to purchase the articles on the spot at an exorbitant price. Before Mr. Nyssen promised to pay the tribute every three years the Bashaw observed that he would be very glad if he refused to pay it, that he only wanted a pretext to declare war against any nation with whom he is at peace. That whenever they

refused to pay his demands he would no longer remain at peace with them—it would no longer be to his interest to do so. Mr. Leon Farfara, our most righteous broker, had the impudence to inform me, in confidence, that he was the occasion of the Danes not receiving a written agreement when first promised them, and by that means has made a merit of his iniquity with the Bashaw. On the 27th the Bashaw ordered the Swedish flag staff to be taken down, and declared war against Sweden in consequence of the bills Mr. Coster had given him on Leghorn having been returned protested, and on the 28th the cruisers sailed upon a cruise in quest of Swedes. On the 24th the fleet being ready for sea Admiral Murat demanded passports from the different consuls, and with the others received the Swedish consul's; when the Bashaw declared war against Sweden the consul went to the Rais of the Marine and Admiral and asked for the Swedish passports which he refused; he then went to the castle to demand an audience but the Bashaw knowing what he wanted refused to see him, and the cruisers sailed with the passports; the consequence will be that if they fall in with vessels of superior force they will present their passports and pass unmolested; if they meet with merchantmen they will capture them and make slaves of their crews. Pray sir, is this not piracy? And should a Swedish frigate fall in with one of them afterwards, would not the commander be justifiable in treating them as pirates deserve? So much for this iniquitous Regency where truth, honor and the faith of treaties are mere empty sounds without meaning; where it has pleased the Lord in the plentitude of his power to banish me, no doubt as a punishment for my manifold sins, to the end that I might work out my own salvation. He could not have sent me to a worse place, Botany Bay or Siberia not even excepted.

You will observe in my letter in cypher of the 15th of May that I have given it as my opinion that a present of $10,000 will keep the Bashaw quiet for four or five years, which I

have contradicted in mine of the 27th, by saying it will have that effect for one year only; both opinions are merely conjectures, for with a man of the Bashaw's capricious character no decided opinion can or ought ever to be formed; but my reason for adopting the last is founded on information, which I had lately received, that the Bashaw was resolved to make every nation with whom he was at peace pay him the same present annually that are paid by them at Tunis, and in short to establish this Regency on the same footing that Tunis is in respect to foreign nations. He has succeeded with the Danes and in a great measure with the Swedes, and if they now patch up a dishonorable peace upon the Bashaw's own terms, it will serve to convince him that the Christian commercial nations of Europe will make great sacrifices in order to maintain their commerce unmolested in these seas. It will commence with the United States upon a supposition that we will compromise the affair with him, and put up with his impositions as they have done, and our great distance from this Regency will make him imagine that he need not be under any apprehension that our vessels of war will retaliate upon his cruisers. I hope however he may be disappointed in his conjecture. I can not imagine why the Bashaw keeps the original letter to the President in Arabic when he knows that I have forwarded duplicates of the translation to the Department of State, unless it is in consequence of my having observed to Farfara and Daguize that the Bashaw's letter seemed to me more like a menace than a request, and that he fearing I might forward said letter to Algiers had taken the precaution to withdraw it immediately, concluding that the translation authenticated by me would have the same weight with the President as the original; for although the Bashaw repels the claims of superiority made in the other two Regencies with the greatest indignation, nevertheless I am convinced that he would not wish to offend them for very essential reasons, unless his interest was considerably concerned; in such a case I

have no knowledge of the man if it would not counterbalance ever prudential resolve, for gold is his god. His motives for not wishing to offend Tunis or Algiers for a trifle, are because he is on very indifferent terms with the Ottoman court in consequence of his having captured several Imperial vessels with the Grand Signore's firman, and likewise two Ragusans that navigated under his immediate protection. The Captain Bashaw has lately taken one of his cruisers and sent her to Constantinople, and he is afraid that by displeasing either of the other Regencies, that they would either set up his brother Hamet in opposition to him who is now in Tunis, or promise to assist any other Bashaw whom the Grand Signore might choose to appoint; this joined to the scarcity of grain in this Regency, which renders it necessary to import a considerable quantity annually from Tunis and Algiers, is the real cause that keeps this ambitious man on terms of amity with the heads of the other Regencies, and although I have avoided mentioning Algiers in the discussion at any point as much as possible, deeming a reference to that Regency to be our last resource, I have nevertheless magnified the friendship of the Dey and the Ministry of Algiers, and have always endeavored to imbibe the idea that the Regency of Algiers would go great lengths to serve the United States; the propagating this doctrine can do us no harm, and I believe but little good. The Bashaw seems determined to pursue his system of maintaining a fleet of cruisers. Last month arrived here fifty-five recruits from Candia all sailors, among whom were thirteen Raises. The Bey of Tunis declared war against Denmark on the 26th June, previous to which he captured eight Danish vessels and made their crews, one hundred in number, slaves. I do not recollect anything else at present worthy notice. I therefore beg leave to subscribe myself, with the greatest respect and esteem, sir,

Your humble servant,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

TRIPOLI, Aug. 14, 1800.

Thomas Appleton, Esq., Leghorn.

Sir:—The inclosed dispatch for the Department of State contains a letter from the Bashaw of Tripoli to the President of the United States, on the safety of which probably may depend the peace of our country, and consequently the safety of our fellow citizens trading in these seas; you will please to forward it by the first conveyance and acknowledge the receipt of it as soon as possible. As I have written you thrice since the French evacuated Leghorn without being favored with a line in return, I should not trouble you at present if a correspondence with our consul in Leghorn was not inevitable, and dictated by imperious necessity, for should a rupture break out with these people, Leghorn is the only place to which I would have an opportunity to write to in order to alarm our commerce, and when any demands are made upon the nations at peace with this Regency, Leghorn is the place from which letters must be forwarded to the different courts. I therefore request you in future to spare a few moments from your more important affairs to acknowledge the receipt of my letters to Government; by so doing you will render an essential service to our country and confer an obligation on, sir,

Your very obedient servant,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

TRIPOLI, Aug. 22, 1800.

Thomas Appleton, Esq., Leghorn.

Sir:—On the 14th inst. I had the honor to remit to your address a letter for the Department of State of much importance; it was committed to the care of Mr. Lochner, late Danish consul here, who I hope has arrived safe. The inclosed dispatch you will please forward by a safe conveyance, but not in the same vessel with the other, unless she

is sufficiently armed to ensure her safety from capture by French cruisers, as I am informed there are numbers from Cape de Gatt to Cape Spartel, as it contains a letter from the Bashaw of Tripoli to the President of the United States, forwarded in my last—it is necessary to multiply the conveyance. On the 27th of July war was declared by this Regency against Sweden; on the 28th the cruisers sailed in quest of Swedes but no prizes of that nation have yet arrived. You will please discourage American vessels from ever coming near Tripoli as much as possible, as every vessel that has arrived here since my arrival has had just cause of complaint. I am, sir, with due respect your very

Humble and obedient servant,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

TRIPOLI, Aug. 27, 1800.

Mr. William Eaton, Tunis.

My Dear Sir:—In some of my letters I recollect having informed you of our bad state of health; we are recovering, but my eyes remain weak and I expect to remain in the same state until cold weather commences. It would be very acceptable to me to have the copy of our treaty with Tunis as ratified by the Senate; if there is any reason why it should be kept private, the old pedagogue that was Famin's clerk has read it frequently, and I believe it is in his hand writing; he, I make no doubt, would copy it for me for a small recompense and by that means save you the trouble; any expense attending the same you will please charge to my account. I should likewise be glad to know how the stores were received by the Bashaw of Tunis, and whether they have all arrived and if we are in arrears, as I think most probable—when do you expect the remainder? I have not heard a word from or relative to Mr. Smith, although I have forwarded to him; pray do you know if he remained at Lisbon or if he has proceeded to Constantinople? The

uncertainty of finding him has occasioned my not writing to him often. It is reported here that the British have declared war against Algiers, and that there is a squadron of English and Portuguese cruising off that port. Do you hear anything of it at your place? I have heard nothing from that quarter for several months. We are destitute of every information, anything that arrives is so warped before it is given to the public that there is no confidence to be placed in getting a direct answer from any person; falsehood, low cunning, perfidious double dealing is the order of the day. There is not such another infernal villainous place under the canopy of heaven; there is as much difference between the morals of the people of this Regency and those of Algiers, of the same class, as there is between the Algerines and the citizens of Philadelphia..

I am very much surprised that you have not acknowledged a packet inclosed to you for Mr. Pickering, forwarded by a sandal commanded by Rais Masahoudel Haddad the copy of which I forwarded by a land courier inclosed to the Spanish consul for greater security. I have heard of the arrival of both, and answers have come to letters forwarded by them. I hope you have received them and forwarded the original by the most direct route to America. The copy was left open for your perusal, and in order to be forwarded to Algiers; the original of the letter from the Bashaw to the President remains in the same manner as when I forwarded the dispatches, not having heard a single word about the matter since—to what calculation this may lead I know not. Relative to your brig, if you send her here she will be plundered or retained in port for four or five months, and if she is freighted the freight, if ever paid, will not be in less than five or six months after it becomes due. Shun this place as you would a whirlpool and discourage all Americans from ever coming here on any consideration whatever. This you will do in a private manner, that it may not be known that we prevented vessels of our nation from coming

here. I have written to Mr. Appleton on the subject. I requested your opinion relative to the contents of my dispatches for Government, which I have not yet received. The Bashaw's impositions on the tribes has made cash so scarce here, that I have sometimes to wait a week before I can procure, from the Jews, 100 yuslicks, which is $33.33, during which time I am obliged to make use of what provisions I have in the house, and sometimes am under the humiliating necessity of borrowing from my servants. At present I owe them above six months wages, and can not procure cash to pay them; add to this the abject dependence I am in to the Jews insomuch that if I want to buy the least article from any vessel that arrives here, I am deprived of the means and am obliged to take it at second-hand from them at an exorbitant price, or go without; this is not owing to my being in debt to them, for the Bashaw has never paid me a single cent for the cloth which he purchased from me to the amount of $2,000, although I have demanded it of him at least fifty times; he always makes fair promises but never performs them, and the last time I asked him for my due he told me to look upon it as paid, as he would give me an order on the Jews in a very short time for the payment of it; however, as yet I have only received his receipt or promissory note under the great seal. I therefore request you to forward me annually cash to the amount of $2,200, which is about what my salary and contingent expenses amount to. You will please to forwad $500 at a time, as opportunity serves, and if a vessel of war or neutral flag should come direct from your place, you can if convenient forward six or nine months salary at once; in complying with this request you will be perfectly justifiable, as I am certain it is not the intention of Government that any of their representatives in Barbary should depend upon the caprice of a Jew broker for the common necessaries of life. I informed you that I should prefer Tunis to Tripoli to reside in for many reasons. (In answer to one of your

letters last year.) You will oblige me very much by informing me what steps, if any, you have taken relative to this exchange, as it has now become an object to me as this climate neither agreeing with Mrs. Cathcart nor myself, and if next year I should be again afflicted I shall certainly solicit a recall, and another reason is I have a growing family, who by residing here would become perfect savages, as there is no female society whatever, and most of the Christians here adopted the fashions of the country, so much that I deem it expedient to keep as little company with them as possible. You say you will be another year at least my fellow exile; if you get home by the year 1803 you may think yourself fortunate, as I never knew a consul in Barbary but what remained longer than he expected; at all events let me know your determination that I may lay an anchor to windward in time, I have some friends of influence in the United States; I never asked one of them for a favor in my life, although they have frequently offered to serve me with their interest. I certainly will make use of their good offices in order to facilitate my removal from this Regency, the iniquity of whose government is beyond description. Pray, has Dr. Shaw arrived in America and how does he like the proposal of being appointed resident in Tripoli? Do you think it expedient for me to write to the Secretary of State on the subject? If you do let me know how far you are advanced in the business. On the 2nd of June Mr. Nyssen, the present Danish consul, arrived here. He was not permitted to land until the 4th inst. in the evening; he encountered a great deal of difficulty, but for the present he has surmounted them all by the force of presents and promises. August 17th, Mr. Lochner, the Danish consul, left this city bound to Leghorn. On the 27th of July read from this to Siberia not excepted in my letter to Mr. Pickering. I remain with respect and esteem,

Your sincere friend,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

P. S. What has become of our commissioners to the French Republic? I don't hear a word about them.

Sept. 10, 1800.

To Mr. Eaton.

I expect there will be above 100 Swedes captured this cruise, who will all be made slaves. The United States are destined to be the next victim, if a remedy is not applied before affairs are settled with Sweden. You will please to seal and forward to Mr. O'Brien at Algiers, who I am anxious to hear from. I am, sir,

Yours in sicerity,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART,

TRIPOLI, Sept. 10, 1800.

Richard O'Brien, Algiers.

Sir:—Our affairs remain in *statu quo,* no alteration having taken place since my dispatch to you, open for your perusal, with a letter asking your opinion and advice bearing date of the 31st of May; neither have I heard one word more on the subject, except on the 4th of September, that the first Swedish prize arrived, the Bashaw interrogating the prize-master relative to what vessels they had fallen in with, was informed that among others they had seen three American ships loaded with sugar, pepper, etc., and after praising them for a considerable time to excite the Bashaw's cupidity, added with a significant grin, that the ships would make excellent cruisers. The Bashaw answered "I intend to have a long conversation with the American consul soon." Farfara, who was present, asked him if he was permitted to tell me so. "Yes," answered the Bashaw, "tell him I am now busy with the Swedes; when we have settled our affairs

I intend to have a long conversation with him." Farfara came to my house and informed me of the above; I desired him to present my respects to the Bashaw of Tripoli, and inform him that I would think myself highly honored by so great a mark of his attention, and would wait upon him whenever he thought proper, but in order that our conversation might be both concise and interesting, I requested him to peruse the treaty between the United States and this Regency, and that by so doing I was convinced, that although our discourse probably might not terminate to the mutual satisfaction of the parties concerned, as different opinions were always engendered by different interests, yet it would be attended with this good consequence at least, it would serve to remove all doubts from the minds of both parties, for arguments founded on so solid and permanent a basis must inevitably carry with them both reason and conviction. I shall leave you, sir, to comment on the above, but in my opinion the Bashaw's message was very like a menace of the first class, and I am much afraid I shall soon be obliged to make use of emollients, a drastic would carry off the peccant humor much better, but the chief physician has not prescribed one. You are now informed of the minutia of our affairs as well as if you were present. I request you to form your conclusions as quick as the subject will admit, and to forward them to me with your opinion and advice, via Tunis by a courier extraordinary. You certainly are sensible that I am, while waiting for your answers to my requisitions, in a state of uncertainty and remain undecided in my opinion, consequently undetermined how to act, and that by keeping me in suspense any longer than is absolutely necessary must ultimately redound to the prejudice of the affairs of the United States, I therefore recommend dispatch. On the 2d of June, Mr. Nyssen read this paragraph in my letter to Mr. Eaton of Aug. 27th and on the 27th of July read from this to Siberia not excepted in my letter to Mr. Pickering of the 14th of August, 1800,

both paragraphs being annexed to this letter. I have nothing else to inform you of at present, and am in expectation of your answer.

Your very obedient servant,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

P. S. I have to observe that the cruisers of this Regency have captured seven sails of Swedes, five have arrived—four light, and one loaded with pitch, tar and iron. The crews are on board the cruisers, which have not yet arrived. I shall render them every service in my power upon their arrival. I am sorry my finances will not be able to keep pace with my inclinations, but I will give them a half loaf which you know is better than no bread.

TRIPOLI, Sept. 15, 1800.

William Eaton, Tunis.

Dear Sir:—Yours of the 2d of September came to hand yesterday morning, and of the 28th of June by a man dispatched to Suarez on purpose, where they have been performing quarantine for some weeks. I must have more letters on their passage as our consul general informs me he has answered my requisitions, but I have not received them. No news whatever but what is contained in the inclosed note for Algiers, which is of too melancholy a nature to dwell on. I thank you for your offer of hospitality and will accept it if necessary, but will endeavor to prevent a war by every justifiable means until I receive answers from Government, which if not accompanied with two or three of our frigates will be only feeding the Bashaw's avarice and paving the way for fresh demands. A dog that barks a great deal seldom bites, and now he has employed the bones of the Swedes. I have just been informed of a conveyance offering

via Sfax, and have only time to assure you that I am with real esteem,

Yours sincerely,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

TRIPOLI, Sept. 15, 1800.

Richard O'Brien, Esq., Algiers.

Sir:—Yesterday I received yours of the 11th July and 14th of August. Your answers to my requisitions and opinion and advice, relative to the affairs of this Regency, have not yet arrived. Our affairs remain in the same state as when I wrote to you last, and I am in hopes no alteration will take place until answers arrive from Government, provided no unnecessary delay is made. Relative to my outfit I cannot give you a positive answer, as Mr. Pickering has never written me a word on the subject. The following Swedish vessels have been sent in here from the 4th of September, the whole condemned and crews, being 102 in number, made slaves. 1 bark ship loaded sugar and coffee; 2 brigs loaded iron, tar, pitch and paint; 1 brig loaded brandy and wine; 1 brig loaded brandy; 1 brig loaded oil; 5 brigs loaded in ballast. Three cruisers are still at sea and probably will capture more Swedes. If the young King of Sweden puts up with this insult he is not a descendant of Charles the XIIth. Three more cruisers will sail tomorrow.

TRIPOLI, Sept. 25, 1800.

Hon. Timothy Pickering.

Dear Sir:—As it is absolutely necessary for the President to appoint some person of probity to act as agent or consul for the United States at the Island of Malta, on account of its proximity and correspondence with Tunis and Tripoli,

and considering that Malta being little more than a garrison and that it does not command sufficient trade to induce a citizen of the United States to reside there, I take the liberty to recommend Mr. Joseph Pulis, a native of the Island as a proper person for that employment. I not knowing whether that gentleman would accept of said employment induced me to write to him on the subject, a copy of my letter to him and his answer goes inclosed with this. If the President should think proper to appoint said person, from his general character I have reason to believe that the United States will have acquired a faithful servant. I am sir, with very great respect,

Your most obedient servant,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

TRIPOLI, Oct. 7, 1800.

Hon. Timothy Pickering.

Dear Sir:—In mine of the 14th August I had the honor of informing you that the Bashaw of Tripoli declared war against Sweden on the 27th of July, in consequence of certain bills which the Swedish charge-des-affairs had drawn upon Leghorn having been returned protested, the particulars of said negotiation I have already forwarded to you in mine of the 30th of December, 1799. On the 28th of July the cruisers of this Regency sailed in quest of Swedes, and have taken, unto the date hereof, per the inclosed list. In mine of the above date I have likewise informed you that the Capt. Bashaw had captured one of the cruisers of this Regency, in consequence of her having captured several Imperial vessels with Grand Signore's firman. The cruiser had formerly been an Imperial vessel, and was taken by the cruisers of this Regency. On her arrival at Constantinople she was immediately delivered up to her former proprietors, having previously been claimed by their agents.

In consequence of the above the Bashaw has condemned the cargoes of three Imperial vessels, richly laden with dry goods—says he is not dependent upon the Porte, and if the Grand Signore captures his cruisers at the instigation of the Emperor of Germany, that he will retaliate threefold upon the Infidels, his subjects. In order to palliate the capture of the two Ragusans he sent for the Ragusan agent, and drawing out a large book which he says was written in the time of his grandfather, informed him that he found therein that the Republic of Ragusa anciently paid this Regency the sum of $5,000 annually, and a cargo of timber for ship building every three years; that during the reign of his father, who was a timid Prince, they discontinued to pay the said amount; neither had they made him any acknowledgment since his reign commenced that he considered himself a part proprietor of the Mediterranean and would be respected as such; that he had taken these vessels in order to induce them to pay a greater regard to their own interest for the future, and now took this opportunity to inform them that if they did not send orders to their agents to accommodate matters very soon, he would order his cruisers to capture every Ragusan vessel that they should happen to fall in with; and would not only condemn their cargoes but likewise their vessels and people. The above mentioned book is made use of very often and is known by the name of the Volume Forgery, as it is well known that the Republic of Ragusa has been under the Grand Signore's protection ever since the Venetians lost the Morea in the year 1715, and that the usurper, Ciddi Aly, carried with him every record that belonged to this Regency when he evacuated Tripoli in 1795. Our affairs remain in *statu quo*. The Bashaw has intimated that he will remain quiet until he has settled his affairs with Sweden, before which I hope to receive orders from Government in answer to my dispatches of last May, which I have forwarded in triplicates. The Vasco de Gamma, a Portuguese 64, arrived here yesterday

evening and sails today. On her passage she captured the small schooner Leila Aiesha, from the Algerines, with 73 men on board and has brought her into this bay. Lest my dispatches should not arrive before you receive this, which is not very probable, I have recapitulated the chief of their contents. The Bashaw being piqued that more has been given to Tunis than to this Regency, on the arrival of the Hero of Tunis, sent for me and demanded a present. I peremptorially refused, making use of such arguments as I thought most condusive to our interests. After a good deal of bravado and mean, dirty insinuations he desired me to write to Government and inform them that he would never be convinced that their friendship was sincere, until he should receive some marks of the President's favor more substantial than mere compliment. The same is contained in his letter to the President wherein he adds, that if the President's compliments are only flattery unaccompanied with acts and promises, that each shall act as will be most convenient to him; that is to say, if you don't give me a present I will forge a pretext to capture your defenseless merchantmen; he likewise says that he expects an answer as soon as possible, and that any delay on our side will only serve to injure our own interests. The Bashaw undoubtedly is a very sturdy beggar, he first demands a present and then menaces us to a compliance of his unjust demands. If the political state of our affairs should render it advisable to put up with the Bashaw's insolence for the present, less than $10,000 will not content him. That sum I presume will keep him quiet for some time, but if our Government should ever make him a present it will nevertheless be necessary to station some of our frigates in the Mediterranean, with full powers to retaliate on the cruisers of this Regency, should they disturb our commerce; otherwise we will be continually exposed to the unwarrantable depredations of these pirates, whose insolence is incorrigible and who values existing treaties no longer than they are subservient to their

own interests. This is the period that our national character ought to be established with this Regency; a well-timed energy will without doubt intimidate the present Bashaw and his successors from daring to insult our flag, while too great condescension will seem to indicate that he may commit depredations upon our commerce with impunity. I am in hopes that I shall be able to keep him quiet until I receive instructions from the President; interim give me leave to subscribe myself with respect and esteem, dear sir,

Your most humble servant,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

Inclosed to Mr. Smith at Lisbon by the Vasco de Gamma, Capt. Scanichi.

P. S. In my former correspondence I have informed you that the salaries of the consuls at Tunis and Tripoli are inadequate to our bare subsistance. I have not been favored with an answer upon that head—we can not maintain the dignity of our office with proper decorum for less than $3,000 per annum.

TRIPOLI, Oct. 9, 1800.

Hon. William Smith.

Dear Sir:—I have the honor of receiving yours of the 8th of April on the 14th of September and have only time at present to forward the inclosed letter for the Department of State, open for your perusal, which you will please to forward as soon as possible. Mr. O'Brien has informed me that he has forwarded my dispatches for Government, open, to your address. I request your opinion and advice upon the subject, and whether you think it advisable to make the Bashaw a present, should he become impatient, before answers are received from America; that is, provided there

should be no other alternative. I am with great respect and esteem, dear sir,

Your most obedient servant,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

By the Vasco de Gamma, Tunis.

TRIPOLI, Oct. 11, 1800.

William Eaton, Esq., Tunis.

Dear Sir:—On the 6th inst. arrived the Vasco de Gamma, Capt. Scanichi, a Portuguese 74, in 29 days from Gibralter, having taken the schooner Hamdullah with 75 Moors on board, from the Algerines, upon her passage. The Bashaw of Tripoli has purchased the schooner for $3,000, and has so maneuvored that he has got all the Moors clear and given the vessel up to the Algerine Rais, and intends to heave her down and fit her out completely and make a present to the Dey of Algiers. The Bashaw has acted with policy and generosity; you shall be informed of his motive at some other opportunity, suffice it to say it concerns us most minutely, and is by no means a favorable omen. Captain Scanichi informed me that there was an American frigate laying in the Bay of Algiers when they passed. I supposed it to be the ship Washington. You please to give the bearer, Hagi Shaban, when he returns to Tripoli, $500 to bring to me as I am very bad off, I assure you, for money, and charge me with three months salary in your account with the United States. If you have a better opportunity before Shaban returns you may, if convenient, send me a larger sum. Mr. O'Brien answers to my requisitions, although he has informed me that he has forwarded them to me. Now, between you and me, I do not imagine it is of any great consequence. My motives for asking his advice was more in compliance with my instructions than in hopes of reaping a benefit therefrom. The inclosed list you will please forward to

Algiers. No more Swedes have been taken since. I requested Mr. O'Brien to forward me duplicates of his opinion and advice as soon as possible; likewise, that our affairs are exactly in the same state as when I wrote him last, no more having been said upon the subject. The bearer of this says he departs this instant which hinders me from making any farther communications, and am in haste as you may see by my letter.

Yours sincerely,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

Malta is reported to be taken by the British, but no official accounts have yet arrived. Let me have some news.

TRIPOLI, Oct. 14, 1800.

Richard O'Brien, Esq.

Sir:—Yours of the 11th of August I received on the 14th of September, and yours of the 18th of July on the 20th of September. In yours of the 14th August you say "In answer to your questions numbers one, two and three, I have given you my answer and remarks on the affair." I have now to remark, sir, that I have never received them and think it extraordinary, as your other letters came safe. However an affair of such national importance certainly merits particular attention, and I make no doubt you have forwarded duplicates which I will receive in the fullness of time. Our affairs are in the same state as when I wrote you last, no more having been said on the subject; the Bashaw, I presume, either intends to wait until the President answers his letter, or until he settles his affairs with Sweden; this seems to me to be the most probable conjecture, but is by no means a certainty, as he is as capricious as Lady Fortune herself. On the 6th arrived the Vasco de Gamma, Capt Scanichi, a Portuguese 74, in 29 days from Gibraltar, having taken the schooner Hamdullah with 73

Moors on board, from the Algerines, upon her passage. The Bashaw of Tripoli has purchased the schooner for $3,000, and so maneuvored that he has got all the Moors clear and delivered the vessel up to the Algerine Rais, and says he intends to heave her down and fit her out completely and make her a persent to the Dey of Algiers. The Bashaw has acted with policy and generosity without a motive. The Bashaw's policy in treating the Algerines with so much generosity, is in order to cultivate the good graces of the Dey of Algiers, that he may not interfere between the United States and this Regency should he capture any of our vessels, and to prevail upon him not to enforce the guarantee of our treaty by Algiers should he declare war against us; for although the Bashaw repels the claims of superiority made by the other Regencies with the greatest indignation, I am of opinion that it is not to his interest, in the present state of his affairs with the Sublime Porte, to dissatisfy either of the other Regencies lest their representatives might injure his interests in that quarter; as lately the Capt. Bashaw captured a cruiser of this Regency which had formerly been an Imperial vessel, and delivered her up to her former proprietors by the Grand Signore's express order, and the Bashaw has since condemned the cargoes of three Imperial vessels declaring that if the Grand Signore captures his vessels at the instigation of the Emperor of Germany, that he will retaliate upon the Infidels, his subjects, threefold. This insolence will naturally irritate the Porte, and it is not at all improbable that the Capt. Bashaw will visit this Regency, an event earnestly desired by the inhabitants, as his tyrany surpasses conception. Whether the Porte acts with energy or not, it will produce nearly the same effect until the event takes place, for guilt is always accompanied by fear. The Emperor of Germany insists upon indemnification to the amount of a million of dollars from the Porte. The Grand Signore sends his ambassadors to demand restitution from the Bashaw of Tripoli, who puts them off for months with

evasive answers; lately, makes them some presents, writes a letter and sends them away without their having obtained one object of their mission. Next cruise more vessels of the same nation are captured and their cargoes condemned, fresh demands are made which meets with no better success. That the Bashaw intends to try how far the Dey of Algiers will espouse the cause of the United States is a fact beyond dispute, and that some of our vessels would have been captured before this had his ingenuity or iniquity been able to forge the least pretext to palliate the depredation is equally true. He could find none, he therefore acted as you have been informed by perusing my dispatches to Government, wherein he endeavored to cajole the representative of a free and independent nation to deviate from his dignity so far as to justify his unjust demand by a pusillanimous acquiessence. He failed in his design which produced his letter to the President, which would be insulting to the sublimity of your judgment for me to comment any farther than to observe that it contained more of a menace than a request. It appears to me to be absolutely necessary for you to endeavor to ascertain whether any dependence ought to be placed upon the mercy of the Algerines; or whether our peace being guaranteed by the Dey, will assure the restitution of any property which may be plundered from us by this Regency (admitting that the Bashaw of Tripoli repels all claims of superiority made by that Regency with the greatest indignation); otherwise the Government of the United States is liable to be lulled into a fatal security, which may be the means of conducting as many of our citizens into bondage as there are at present Swedes; and their agent here, for want of proper information from the letter of our treaty, may be induced to found his future operations on a basis by no means solid, permanent or secure, from which may result evil without the least visible probability of reaping the smallest advantage. As the Dey of Algiers must answer the Bashaw of Tripoli with the respect his generosity

to him merits, I think it a favorable opportunity for you to endeavor to have inserted in the Dey's letter, that the United States being a nation the most friendly to the Regency of Algiers, that the Bashaw of Tripoli can not give the Dey a better proof of his friendship than by respecting their flag and placing them at all times on the footing of the most favored nation. This would seem to indicate that the guarantee of our treaty by Algiers was not a mere chimera, and would undoubtedly procure us time sufficient for Government to take such measures as would render so humiliating a step, as a reference to Algiers for the future as unnecessary as inexpedient. I am, sir, in anxious expectation for your answer,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

When I commenced this letter I intended to have written it in cypher, but was hindered by the arrival of the Catharine, and have been constantly occupied since. This goes by an English brig, via Tunis, which is a safer though less direct conveyance than by the schooner Hamdullah, which is to sail for your place in a few days.

In addition to the value of $217 plundered from the brig, which is irrecoverably lost, the Bashaw took from me in October, 1799, cloth to the value of 5,787 yuslicks, which is now worth $1,929, but was then worth a great deal more, and I can not get one cent from him. I am drawing up a statement which, if this vessel does not sail tomorrow as it is reported, I will forward it you—if she does I will forward it by her.

TRIPOLI, Oct. 18, 1800.

Charles Lee, Esq., Secretary of State, *pro tem.*

Sir:—Give me leave to inform you that on the 15th inst. arrived a Tripoline cruiser of 18 guns, commanded by Rais Amor Shellie, in company with the brig Catherine, James Carpenter, master, belonging to Minturn & Champlain, from

New York, with a cargo of sugar, coffee, pimentos, beef, whalebone and logwood, value $50,000, bound to Leghorn, which was cleared the same day after a great deal of trouble, and had permission to sail the first fair wind. On the evening of the said day Siddi Mahomet Daguize, who at present acts as minister of foreign affairs, sent for me and informed me that the Bashaw desired him to let me know that he had delivered up this vessel and cargo, in consequence of his having written to the President of the United States, that he would wait his answer before he would take any measures whatsoever against the United States, as he was in great expectations that the President would perfer giving him a stipulated sum annually to making him arbitrary presents that would content him, and the President would not be able to determine what sum would be necessary to maintain our peace. I answered that the Bashaw having now a valuable prize within his grasp was in my opinion a very improper time for negotiation, as an agent less acquainted with the Barbary States would probably be intimidated to act in a manner very unjustifiable, and make agreements which would never be ratified by the Government under whom he acts. That nevertheless I found it my duty to request him to inform the Bashaw that if he had formed the most distant idea that ever the Government of the United States would pay him an annuity he might erase it from his memory, for not only the President and Government of the United States, but the meanest of our citizens, would expend their last dollar and lose their last drop of blood before they would become tributary to the Regency of Tripoli; that I would wait upon his excellency in the morning and inform him verbally what I had now requested him to communicate in my name. We discoursed for about two hours, during which time the purport of my dispatches of last May were discussed and produced the same effect, as I absolutely refused to enter into any negotiation whatsoever until I received the President's answer to the Ba-

shaw's letter accompanied with fresh instructions. On the 16th I waited on the Bashaw in company with Capt. Carpenter, to demand satisfaction for the insult our flag had suffered in having one of our vessels brought in here without any visible cause, her papers and passport being in perfect order, and likewise to demand restitution of property plundered from the brig. The Bashaw answered that he had not given any orders to the Rais to bring in American vessels, and that he had broke him and dismissed him from his service, and then gave orders to the Minister of Marine to have every article that was plundered from the brig returned. The Bashaw then commenced: "Consul, there is no nation I wish more to be at peace with than yours; but all nations pay me and so must the American." I answered we have already paid you all we owe you, and are nothing in arrears. He answered, "that for the peace we had paid him it was true, but to maintain the peace we had given him nothing." I observed that the terms of our treaty were to pay him the stipulated cash, stores, etc., in full of all demands for ever; and then repeated nearly to the same effect as is contained in my dispatch of the 12th of May, which to avoid repetition, I forbear inserting. The Bashaw then observes that he has given a great deal to Algiers and Tunis and that the Portuguese Captain informed him that when he passed Algiers in the middle of last month, he had seen an American frigate in the bay, which he had supposed had brought more presents to the Dey. "Why do they neglect me in their donations? Let them give me a stipulated sum annually and I will be reasonable as to the amount." In answer to the first I replied, that it was true that one of our frigates was at Algiers, being one of a squadron of three 44 gun ships and some smaller vessels, which were appointed to protect our commerce in the Mediterranean, but whether they had presents on board for the Regency I could not inform him; that some of them would have been at Tripoli before this had I not informed them that they had better

stay away until spring, on account of the badness of this road which renders it very unsafe at this season. And in answer to his proposal of an annuity I replied with some warmth exactly what I had requested Daguize to inform him of in my name yesterday evening. "Well then," replied the Bashaw, "let your Government give me a sum of money and I will be content, but paid I will be, one way or another. I now desire you to inform your Government that I will wait six months for an answer to my letter to the President, that if it did not arrive in that period, and if it was not satisfactory if it did arrive, that I will declare war in form against the United States. Inform your Government," said he, "how I have served the Swedes who concluded their treaty since yours; let them know that the French, English and Spanish have always sent me presents from time to time to preserve their peace, and if they do not do the same I will order my cruisers to bring their vessels in wherever they can find them." He then turned to Daguize and told him to explain to Capt. Carpenter what they had informed me (they both speaking French) and added that he did not wish to make it a private affair between the consul and him, and desired him to make it public as he wished the whole world to know it; he then told Daguize to tell the Captain that he hoped the United States would not neglect him, as six or eight vesels of the value of his would amount to a much larger sum than he ever expected to get from the United States for remaining at peace; "Besides," says he, "I have a great desire to have some captains like you here to teach me to speak English." I answered that it was absolutely impossible to receive answers to the letters which he desired me to write by Capt. Carpenter in six months, as it would be nearly that time before he would get home on account of the winter season, and that I expected his excellency would wait till the answers arrived let that be long or short; and observed that none but those who hold a correspondence with the devil could determine whether he would be con-

tented with the President's answer or not, as neither the President nor myself knew what would content him. I therefore requested him to inform me explicitly what were his expectations. To the first he answered, "I will not only wait for answers from your President, but I will now detain the brig and write to him again, but I expect when he sends his answers that they will be such as will empower you to conclude with me immediately and if they are not I will capture your vessels, and as you have frequently informed me that your instructions do not authorize you to give me a dollar, I therefore will not inform you what I expect until you are empowered to negotiate with me; but you may inform your President that if he is disposed to pay me for my friendship I will be moderate in my demands." The Bashaw rose from his seat and went out of the room leaving me to make what comments I thought proper upon his extraordinary conduct. On the 17th Ciddi Mahomed Daguize sent for me and informed me that the Bashaw had changed his mind, and will not write to the President as he says he has written already, and that it is not compatible with his honor and dignity (which the Lord confound,) to write again until he receives an answer to his last. The brig having parted one of her cables in a gale of wind, I had a great deal of trouble to procure her an anchor. In the height of the gale I was obliged to carry it on board myself, at 8 o'clock at night, I being very anxious for her departure. I will only take time to observe, that if the President's answer to the Bashaw and my instructions are not accompanied by two of our largest frigates, I probably may be reduced to the necessity of agreeing to terms very repugnant to my feelings, in order to prevent my citizens from being brought into captivity, the horrors of which is better to be imagined than described. If, on the contrary, a force sufficient to enable us to act with energy and repel the Bashaw's unjust claims with the indignation they merit, our flag in future will be as much respected as the British and

French are. If not we will be continually exposed to the unwarrantable depredations of these pirates whose insolence is incorrigible, and who value existing treaties no longer than they are subservient to their interests. This is the period that our national character ought to be established with this Regency; a well timed energy will no doubt intimidate both the present Bashaw and his successors from daring to insult our flag, while too great condescension will seem to indicate that he may commit depredations on our commerce with impunity. In whatever manner the wisdom of the Government adopts to settle this affair, it is absolutely necessary to make the greatest dispatch, and I request that my instructions may be as explicit as the nature of the negotiations will admit. I am with great respect,

Your most obedient servant,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

P. S. Inclosed are the lists of the Swedish vessels captured since the war commenced. There are several cruisers out, and I forwarded my dispatches last May to Consul O'Brien, as I make no doubt that they will capture more. I requested the opinion of Consul O'Brien on the subject, but in return he has only acknowledged the receipt of them, and adds that he hopes the Bashaw will wait for answers from Government. This seems to indicate that the treaty between the United States and this Regency being guaranteed by the Most Potent Dey is of no service at all, but has only served to irritate the Bashaw of Tripoli and to make him more unreasonable. I will forward the copy.

TRIPOLI, Oct. 18, 1800.

Sir:—Yours of the 28th of September came to hand yesterday evening, which is the first I have had the pleasure to receive from you since my arrival. The bearer of this is

Capt. Carpenter who was sent in here by a Tripoline cruiser, but cleared after much trouble. The Bashaw has declared publicly that he will declare war against the United States, if the answers which he receives from the President are not satisfactory, but at the same time declares that none of our vessels shall be molested until then. Capt. Carpenter will inform you what the Bashaw said to me in his presence, as at present I have not time, being very anxious to dispatch the brig. You will please to forward the inclosed to the Secretary of State by the first conveyance, as it contains a detail of the state of our affairs in this Regency and is of much importance. I will write again in a few days, as there is a vessel to sail for Leghorn in about 15 days. The inclosed letter for Mr. D'Andreis you will please to give into his own hands, as it contains a bill of exchange for $600, Spanish. I am, sir,

Your most obedient servant,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

TRIPOLI, Oct. 23, 1800.

Consul O'Brien, Algiers.

Sir:—Inclosed with this are the duplicates of my dispatch for the Department of State, which will inform you of the state of our affairs in this Regency. As it is of very great consequence you will please multiply the copies as often as opportunity serves, and then forward them open via Lisbon. I have never received your opinion and advice, which you say you have forwarded to me, which is something extraordinary. I hope you have kept a copy of them and will forward me the duplicates, as well as your opinion and advice relative to the contents of the inclosed dispatch. I am making out regular protests to forward to you but must wait until the schooner Hamdullah sails, which is now here, having been brought in a prize by the Vasco de

Gamma, Capt. Scanichi, and sold to the Bashaw of Tripoli for $3,000, he having previously got all the Algerine slaves free. You shall know the particulars when time permits. I am, sir,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

Capt. Carpenter sailed yesterday, bound to Leghorn.

TRIPOLI, Oct. 23, 1800.

William Eaton, Esq., Leghorn.

My Dear Sir:—By the inclosed dispatch, which I have left open, you will be informed of the state of our affairs in this Regency. It being of great importance for Government to receive information as soon as possible, I request you to multiply the copies and forward them to our consul at Algiers, who I will request to do the same. The wind blowing a gale to the northward since the 11th inst. has hindered the vessel from sailing for your place, but they sail tonight, the wind being favorable. I request your opinion and advice relative to the best method of conducting our affairs in the present crisis, as I am deprived of any instructions from our consul general. I have no more time at present. I am

Sincerely yours,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

TRIPOLI, Oct. 25, 1800.

Sir:—In about twenty days from the date of this you will receive two packets, which will inform you of the state of our affairs here; suffice at present that the brig Catherine of New York, bound to Leghorn, was brought here by a Tripoline cruiser, with a cargo valued at $50,000 on the 15th

inst., and was cleared in consequence of the Bashaw of Tripoli having written to the President. The Bashaw publicly declared that he would wait but six months longer for answers from America; that if they did not arrive in that period, he would declare war against the United States, and if they were not satisfactory when they did arrive that he would do the same. After much persuasion he promised to wait until he received answers from the President, let that be long or short, but not one hour longer should they not be satisfactory. By this public declaration the Bashaw has annulled the whole of our treaty, especially the 10th and 12th articles, in the first of which is specified "that in case of any dispute arising from a violation of any of the articles of this treaty no appeal shall be made to arms, but if the consul resident shall not be able to settle the same, an amicable reference shall be made to the mutual friend of both parties, the Dey of Algiers, the parties hereby engaging to abide by his decision,"—read the 10th and 12th articles. I therefore have now to inform you that I can not settle this dispute, and that I do hereby make that amicable reference stipulated by treaty, leaving it at the discretion of the consul general of the United States to act as may be most likely to promote the interests of the United States, and requesting him to suspend his operations until he receive the above mentioned packets which will give him every useful information. I am, in great haste,

Your very obedient servant,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

Consul General O'Brien, Algiers.

To Consul O'Brien with my Protest of 29th Oct., 1800.

Sir:—As it is probable that the Bashaw of Tripoli will commit depredations upon the commerce of the United States, notwithstanding his promise to wait for the President's answer, as is more fully explained in the copy of my dispatch of the 18th inst., which accompanies this, I there-

fore have thought it advisable to transmit to your office the annexed protest and reference, which in my opinion is absolutely necessary as well for the reasons contained therein as to prevent the Bashaw of Tripoli from screening himself from harm; should the Government of the United States destroy his cruisers he would then seek a subterfuge by making a reference to Algiers, although he has disavowed and in a great measure annulled the whole of the treaties; and how do we know (that if no reference is made to Algiers by us) that our good friends, the Most Potent Dey of Algiers, will insist upon our indemnifying the Bashaw of Tripoli for the cruisers which may be destroyed by the United States, and in case of refusal declare war against us in virtue of the stipulations contained in the 12th article of said treaty, which, positively says no appeal shall be made to arms? And although this proceeding would be unjust, as the Bashaw of Tripoli is the agressor, you have been too long in Barbary not to know that it is possible, and that things of as dark a complexion has taken place, at all events Government, and their agents ought not to be kept in ignorance on this very essential point. I request your answer, sir, to all my requisitions as well as those of last May and the present, and that you will register and protest reference in the Chancery of the United States at Algiers, and forward the original to the Department of State inclosed to Mr. Smith at Lisbon, whose opinion and advice I shall request the first opportunity. Submitting the whole of the decision to your superior judgment, I am, sir,

Your very humble servant,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

Oct. 29th, 1800.

TRIPOLI, Nov. 1, 1800.

Charles Lee, Esq.

Sir:—By the dispatches which I had the honor to forward to the Department of State since last April, you will be

informed that the Bashaw of Tripoli has annulled the 10th and 12th articles of the treaty between the United States and this Regency. I therefore, on the 29th of October, protested against his conduct and forwarded the protest to Consul General O'Brien at Algiers, in order that he might make an amicable reference to the Most Potent Dey of Algiers, who, I hope, on this occasion will not prove himself *impotent*, for I assure you I doubt very much whether he ever will interfere in our favor or not; and in my opinion he ought not to be too much relied on. It would be of no use to send you a copy of the protest and reference at present even if I had time to copy it, as there is no knowing what effect it will have upon our affairs. I therefore have requested Mr. O'Brien to register the said protest in the Chancery of the United States at Algiers, and to forward it to the Department of State via Lisbon, when he naturally will inform you of the result. In the present state of our affairs I can not find myself justifiable in doing otherwise, for in the 10th article of the treaty, it is particularly specified that the money and the presents demanded by the Bey or Bashaw of Tripoli, is a full and satisfactory consideration, on his part, and on the part of his subjects, for said treaty of perpetual peace and friendship, and that no pretense of any periodical tribute or farther payment is ever to be made by either party; and said Bashaw of Tripoli having acknowledged the receipt of the money and presents stipulated by treaty, I found it highly improper to comply with any demands upon the United States; and in the 12th article of the foresaid treaty it is stipulated that in case of any dispute arising from a violation of any of the articles of the said treaty, that no appeal shall be made to arms, nor shall war be declared on any pretense whatever. But if the consul residing at the place where the dispute shall happen, shall not be able to settle the same, an amicable reference shall be made to the friend of both parties, the Dey of Algiers, the parties thereby engaging to abide by his deci-

sion, and he, having engaged for himself and his successors to declare the justice of the case according to the true interpretation of the said treaty, and to use all the means in his power to enforce the observance of the same. It was my inevitable duty to act as I have done, it being entirely out of my power to settle the dispute arising from the violations of the said articles of our treaty. It amounted to nothing less than making the United States of America tributary to Tripoli, which can be done by none but the Government of the United States. I have nevertheless submitted the whole to the decision of the consul general of the United States at Algiers, and left the manner of conducting the reference entirely at his discretion, and hope that he will act in such a manner as will promote the honor and interest of our country. Should no reference be made to the Dey of Algiers by us in the first instance, the United States would have been reduced to the following humiliating and very embarrassing situation. The Bashaw of Tripoli declares that he will capture our vessels if we do not comply with his unjust demands. It is natural to suppose that the citizens of the United States will defend themselves, and not pusillanimously surrender the vessels and cargoes entrusted to their care without a struggle. The Government of the United States will probably think proper to chastise his arrogance, and destroy his cruisers wherever they shall be found; then would the Bashaw of Tripoli meanly seek a subterfuge by making a reference to Algiers, although he has disavowed, and in a great measure, annulled the whole of the treaty; and how do we know that if no reference is made by us, but our good friend, the Most Potent Dey of Algiers, will insist upon our indemnifying the Bashaw of Tripoli for the cruisers which may be destroyed by the United States and in case of refusal declare war against us? In virtue of the stipulation contained in the 12th article of said treaty, which positively says no appeal shall be made to arms, and although this proceeding would be in every respect unjust,

as the Bashaw of Tripoli is the aggressor and not the President of the United States; nevertheless, I say it is possible and things of as dark a nature have already taken place. In my dispatches of last May I informed the Secretary of State that probably $10,000 would satisfy the Bashaw. At present his ideas are much enlarged in consequence of his having captured 14 sail of Swedes,—as you will be informed by the inclosed list—and if a force is not sent sufficient to intimidate him to compliance, three times the sum will not be sufficient, as he is determined to establish the following system from which he is resolved not to swerve unless by force of arms. His revenues not being equal to his expenses, he is determined to be at war either with the Swedes, Danes, United States alternately, to which is to be added the Batavian Republic when a general peace takes place in Europe. He is now at war with the Swedes from whom he demands the amount of $260,000 for peace and the ransom for 171 of their prisoners, which he expects to conclude about March or April. The United States are designed to be the next victim, and that it has been premeditated before the departure of the Sophia will evidently appear by the purport of my dispatches of April, 1799, and the Secretary of State's answer to them, dated the 15th of Jan., 1800, from which I beg leave to make the following extract which will place the affair in a clearer point of view: "And it will not be amiss, when a fair opportunity shall offer, to intimate to the Bashaw of Tripoli that the United States are disposed to treat him with the like respect and friendship as they do the chiefs of the two other Regencies." This seems to be what he expects from this expression in his letter to the President, "We have consummated the peace which shall, on our part, be unalterable; provided, you are willing to treat us, as you do the two other Regencies, without any difference being made between us." The letter previously adverts to the difficulties in the way of your negotiation and his resolution not to receive you. But that

Mr. McDonogh's entreaties prevailed and so in order to gratify his desire and to preserve unalterated the subsisting friendship, the Bashaw agreed to accept the small sum of $10,000 in lieu of the stipulated stores, and $8,000 as a substitute for the brig Sophia promised by Capt. O'Brien. I would send you a copy of the Bashaw's letter if the answer of the Rais to you "that the Bey never gave copies of his letters to anyone" did not excite an apprehension that if it were known it might give offense, and yet without a formal copy it seemed proper that you should be acquainted with the substance of its contents. This at once unravels the mystery of my not being able to procure a copy of the Bashaw's letter to the President of the United States even unto this day, and is a sufficient proof that the Bashaw calculated when he ordered the letter to be written that the President would give him the said answer; and that from thence he has founded that claim, plainly appears from that letter to the President of the United States of the 25th of May, 1800, and that he flatters himself that the United States will put him on an equal footing with the two other Regencies, in point of interest as well as respect and friendship, is self evident. Mr. Lochner, the late Danish consul, left here last August, and was charged with dispatches for the King of Denmark, wherein the Bashaw declares that if the Danes do not pay him an annuity of $20,000 per annum, that he will declare war against them. Thus has he founded a pretext for committing depredations upon that nation, about the time he expects to settle his affairs with the United States, and when he concludes with Sweden he intends to make the same claim which if granted by either of them will furnish him with another pretext to declare war against us, if we do not comply with the same terms. Thus sir, I have given you a particular account of the Bashaw's intentions, which points out the necessity of sending out a sufficient force into this sea to repel the Bashaw's demand in the first instance; if not, sir, we will be subject to

the above mentioned impositions and others will originate of the same nature every two or three years, which probably will be the means of conducting as many of our fellow citizens into slavery as there are now unfortunate Swedes; and ultimately the United States will have to take the measure I recommend to them to take at present, or become tributary to Tripoli and consequently to Tunis, or renounce the whole trade of the Mediterranean. It occurs to me that the reason why the Bashaw would not inform me what were his expectations, is in order that he may have an opportunity to make an exorbitant demand upon us unaccompanied with force, and to declare war against us if I find it impossible to comply with his demands. I therefore conceive it my duty to alarm our commerce and to put them on their guard, and being convinced that I have done every thing in my power to evade the impending danger, I leave the result to the will of the Most High; and should anything happen hereafter over which human prudence or foresight could have had no control, I trust that I shall be justifiable both to God and my country for having taken the above measures, which, at least, will lessen the calamity if not entirely remove it. The said plan of the Bashaw's operations may be depended upon and have already been forwarded to the Courts of Sweden, Denmark and Holland by their representatives, and is the production of the same villainous project that was the occasion of the demand upon the Danes, as I have already informed the Secretary of State in mine of the 14th of August last, which was forwarded via Leghorn, coadjuted by the infamous Peter Lisle, alias Marad Rais, Admiral of the Tripoline squadron. I am, sir, with sentiments of very great respect,

Your most humble servant,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

CIRCULAR.

To the Agents and Consuls of the United States of America, residing in the different ports of France, Spain, Portugal, Italy, The Barbary States and British Garrisons in the Mediterranean, and to all others whom it may and doth concern.

Gentlemen:—The Bashaw of Tripoli in Barbary having made certain unjust demands upon the United States of America, which I found it my duty to repel, having written to the President of the United States of America upon the subject in the month of May, 1800, and not having received any answer—it being impossible to expect any in so short a time—has publicly declared that if the President does not answer his letter entirely to his satisfaction in the term of six months, to commence from the 22nd of Oct., 1800, that the said Bashaw of Tripoli will declare war against the United States of America, and consequently capture our defenseless merchantmen and conduct our fellow citizens into a state of captivity, the horrors of which is easier to be imagined than described; and being convinced, from a variety of circumstances and examples, that the Bashaw's demands has originated from no other intention than to have a pretext to commit depredations upon the commerce of the United States of America, in a similar manner as he has done upon the commerce of the Danes, Swedes, Imperials and Ragusans, and conceiving it highly probable from the change that has taken place in our cabinet, the removal of the seat of Government and the impending election of a President, that answers will not arrive within the limited period, and that if they should arrive that they may not be satisfactory to said Bashaw of Tripoli; I therefore, for the above reasons, do declare that it will be unsafe for any of the vessels of the United States of America to trade in the Mediterranean or its vicinity after the 22d day of March, 1801. It always happens that captures are made a considerable

time before the expiration of the period allowed, as no confidence whatever ought to be placed in the promises of the said Bashaw, he being destitute of honor and integrity and every other good qualification that dignifies the human heart. Nor do I conclude in virtue of his promise that our vessels may remain in the Mediterranean until the month of March, but in consequence of this Regency being at war with Sweden, which in all probability will not be terminated before that period on account of the season of the year, and it is well known that it is contrary to the policy of the Barbary States to be at war with more than one commercial nation at once, I therefore request the forementioned agents and consuls of the United States of America, and all others whom it may concern, to communicate the contents of this circular letter to all merchants and masters of vessels belonging to the United States of America, in order that they may have time to withdraw their property from those seas, and that our mariners may fly the impending danger before the expiration of the foresaid period. And I likewise enjoin the said agents and consuls to make this letter circular and transmit a copy thereof to the Department of State, and at the same time to make their communications in as private a manner as circumstances will permit, in order that the said Bashaw of Tripoli may not be informed that we have taken this step to withdraw the property of our fellow citizens beyond his reach, until the President determines whether he will accede to send the Bashaw's unjust demands, or send a sufficient force into the Mediterranean to protect our commerce, or the said Bashaw might be induced thereby to give orders to his cruisers to capture our vessels before the said period expires, not doubting but that our agents and consuls in Europe and Africa will use every means to prevent our citizens from falling into captivity; and from their well known zeal for the interests of their country, will act in such a manner as that this national calamity may be felt as little as possible, depending that if this affair can be

compromised and settled consistent with the honor and interest of the United States, that they shall receive the earliest intelligence. In testimony of the absolute necessity of using the foresaid precaution before it shall be too late, I hereunto subscribe my name and affix the seal of my office, at Chancery of the United States of America, in the City of Tripoli in Barbary, this 12th day of November, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred, and of independence of the United States of America the twenty-fifth.

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

Thomas Appleton, Esq., Consul for United States of America, Leghorn.

Sir:—No doubt Capt. Carpenter has arrived safe at Leghorn, but he has informed you how he was treated here, and of the Bashaw's conversation to us upon the 16th of October last, since which time the Bashaw has declared that he will only wait six months for the President's answer to his letter, nor do I expect that he will wait any longer than he concludes a peace or truce with Sweden. I therefore have thought it requisite to take the precaution contained in the inclosed circular letter, and to request you to cause the said to be copied and forwarded by post or otherwise to our different consuls and agents, placing the expenses of the clerk's hire and other contingencies to my account, which shall be duly discharged upon sight. I am under necessity of giving you this trouble as I have neither time nor opportunity to do it myself, and can not get a clerk to assist me in this barbarous place. Exclusive of the service you will be rendering our country, you will confer a very great obligation upon,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

P. S. If you have not already forwarded the packet which I sent to you by Capt. Carpenter, please to forward this first, as it is necessary they should go by two different conveyances, and this contains, besides duplicates, additional intelligence.

TRIPOLI, Nov. 15, 1800.

Richard O'Brien, Esq., Algiers.

Sir:—By the inclosed certificate you will be informed that I received yours of 25th of July on the 9th of Nov., in which it seems that you would wish the President of the United States to believe that the Bashaw of Tripoli's unjust demands originated in consequence of my having informed him of the death of General Washington; happy should I be was that the case, for allowing the late General Washington of immortal memory to have had anything to do with the Regency of Tripoli—which he never had—I should have found no difficulty in promising to give the Bashaw a present; provided, the United States gave any on the same occasion to Tunis and Algiers. But how was it possible that the Bashaw sould ask a present for the death of a person he never knew as President of the United States? Our treaty with this Regency was ratified by John Adams, my letter of credence and commission being signed by John Adams and the Bashaw's letter of April, 1799, and May, 1800, being directed to John Adams, is a sufficient proof that he knew no other. The Italian gazettes gave an account of the honor which was paid to his memory, not as President of the United States, but as Lieutenant-General and Commander-in-Chief of the American army, and as such was he honored by the Bashaw of Tripoli and all the nations at peace with this Regency. Nay, sir, in my dispatch of the 18th of April, which you emphatically called "my log," from whence you say you quote the following paragraph.

"In conveyance of the decease of our political father I sent my drogaman to inform the Bashaw that the next day I should hoist the banners of the United States half mast, the only token of respect, except a tear, I had in my power to pay to the name of our beloved patriot, intending to wait a proper opportunity to intimate to him your intimation." The Bashaw sent me a very polite message expressing his concern for our loss, and requested to know "if the President had received his letter which was forwarded in the Sophia." Can you, or any other person, desire a greater proof that General Washington was not considered as President of the United States by the Bashaw of Tripoli than the above, and in short the whole contents of that dispatch which you have quoted, so far from giving authority to your assertions or insinuations, is the very one I shall quote from in order to confute them. No, sir, the reason the demand was made on the 13th of April was in consequence of the President's answer to the Bashaw's letter sent by the Sophia, arriving on that day and not because I hoisted our national flag half mast, and the reason said demand was enforced on the 22d of May was in consequence of the arrival of the ship Hero at Tunis, as I have already informed you. When you heard of the death of General Washington you did right to keep it private, because the treaty of peace and amity between the United States of America and Algiers was concluded and ratified during his Presidency, and the ratification of our treaty is signed by him; but here, as I have already observed, it was not. Had Mr. Adams departed this life, and I had acted as I have informed you, it certainly would have been imprudent; but it is hardly probable that after eleven years residence in Algiers, that I should have been ignorant of what is known by every person who has had business to transact in that government; and the Bashaw of Tripoli might as well have demanded a present in consequence of the decease of Messrs. Hancock or Laurens, as in consequence of the death of our much

lamented hero, General Washington. It would be very easy for me to procure a certificate from all the consuls at Tripoli, that your assertion is ill-founded, but as nothing remains private here it would in all probability be the means of originating a claim, which, upon my honor, does not exist, and is in every respect the creature of your own fertile imagination, and there is no occasion, as the same channel of comunication is open by which you have asserted, by sign manual, that you were informed that the affairs of the United States were settled here for $17,000, and from whom inquiry has been made by your directions of every particular relative to my administration, even so trifling an affair as the Bashaw's visit to me has been made a subject of indirect interrogation by your request. I should be guilty of an error were I to say *orders;* it therefore appears to me that you have the means of information at hand whenever you think proper to make use of it, as the branch of the same honorable correspondence (Farfara the Jew) still exists, who has the honor which the consul of the United States at Tripoli can not boast of. You farther allege that I have declared the Bashaw of Tripoli independent. The declaration which I have made on compliance with my orders from Government is similar to the British Government, declaring the United States of America independent—that is after they had declared themselves so—and was acknowledged by all the Powers of Europe, with this difference: that this Regency never was dependent upon Algiers, whereas the United States once were British Colonies, and if the consul general of the United States of America at Algiers, does not know the difference between a nation admitting a mediator and acknowledging to be dependent, I do not believe that any degree of responsibility will be required from the American consul at Tripoli, and from the whole tenor of your communications to this date, it appears to me that the United States of America is much more dependent upon Algiers than ever Tripoli was. I hope your conduct relative

to my protest and reference will prove me to be in an error. Happy shall I be to acknowledge it, as I have confined my observations wholly to this Regency. I scruple not to declare that if Government permits the United States to become tributary to Tripoli it is their own fault, for the appearance of a small squadron alone would be sufficient to intimidate the Bashaw and his ministers from making any claims, of consequence, upon the United States in future; though I am of the opinion that it would be good policy to make him voluntary presents occasionally; but it seems to me that before the United States can act for themselves they must ask the Dey of Algiers' leave, for fear of the consequences already explained to you in mine of the 29th of October, which was annexed to my protest and reference, and more particularly explained in my dispatch of the 1st of November, a copy of which is inclosed with this. You say a fleet of American cruisers in the Mediterranean, "may be the means of keeping avarice in awe." I believe that is all that would be contemplated by the Government of the United States. But you say, sir, "they will not prevent extraordinary demands." I perfectly agree with you, that at Tunis and Algiers they would not, but that they will prevent the United States from being under the necessity of complying with those extraordinary demands is eqaully true. Had the agents of the United States arrived at Tunis with two of our frigates we would never have been reduced to the necessity of agreeing to paying a barrel of powder for every gun fired as a salute; and so far from giving a present of jewels, I am of opinion that the demand would never have been made. I perfectly agree with you that Government does not pay sufficient attention to the affairs of Barbary, which may be owing, in some measure, to the great confidence they place in their agents, who are supposed to be men incapable of misrepresentation; but as long as private pique inflames any of them in their communications to Government, delay must be the inevitable consequence. I may

be mistaken. The Portuguese have adopted the same honorable system, which, if my communications can in the least influence the operations of Government, will be adopted by the United States of America. They have with one 64 gun ship burned one of the cruisers of Tripoli, made a peace upon their own terms, and made the Bashaw pay them $11,250; they ratified their treaty and the Bashaw made a present of a valuable saber to Commodore Campbell, and sent a person to beg something for him from the Prince of Brazil, who has returned as he went, only with this difference that he is called the Portuguese consul general, but has no salary whatever from Portugal. The Vasco de Gamma sailed for Lisbon in August, her orders were to proceed to Gibralter and from thence to Algiers, and cruise off that port 15 days, then to Tripoli and land the consul, if the Bashaw had a mind to receive him, without as much as one small diamond ring, or anything else, to put him in a good humor; to then proceed to Leghorn and take on board the Portuguese minister that formerly resided at Turin, thence to Algiers and cruise 15 days more off that port and then return to Portugal. She arrived here with schooner Hamdullah the 6th of October; in the evening on the 7th she was saluted with 21 guns; on the 8th the Bey, or heir apparent to the throne of Tripoli, went on board, accompanied by a numerous train, who begged and obtained the liberty of 40 Algerines. On the 9th the schooner Hamdullah was purchased for $3,000 by the Bashaw of Tripoli; and on the 10th the Bashaw himself went on board and begged and obtained the liberty of 33 Moors which remained, made a present of a very valuable saddle, stirrups and saber to Capt. Scaniche,—who said the same day "this does not look much like chastising a boy and giving him presents afterwards." And I am informed that the Prince of Brazil is not of a disposition to forbear embracing a real good for fear of an imaginary evil. In truth, sir, the Portuguese have behaved honorably, and politically are now as much feared

and respected here as the British; and so will the United States whenever they think proper to act as the Portuguese have done. That Mr. Smith is perefctly of my opinion will appear by the following extract from his letter to me the 8th of April, 1800: "I agree with you that no peace with those Regencies can be lasting, unless we display some naval force in the Mediterranean." The brilliant negotiation of Commodore Campbell affords a sufficient proof of your remarks. I should make observations on many parts of your correspondence, were I disposed to enter into any altercation, but as I have reason to believe insinautions have not produced the desired effect as to the end contemplated, by the President placing me here to watch over the interests of the United States, and not to be eternally bickering with their agents, I will pass them over in silence. But you may rest assured, sir, that had the President of the United States intimated, in the most distant manner, that he supposed me capable of any of the things laid to my charge by you, sir, either directly or indirectly, I should that moment resign my post in favor of one that enjoyed his confidence; but until that is the case I will stay, even where I am, and do as well as I can; and at the same time give me leave to request you once more to forward my answers to your allegations to the Department of State, especially my letter of the 19th of April, and this or exact copies of them. The letter said to be written by the Bashaw was sealed with the seal of the Regency, and Farfara translated it; two copies in his own hand writing have been forwarded to the Department of State, and Hadgi Mahamoud la Sore, who left here in the Hamdullah as ambassador from this Regency to Algiers, was the person who came for it again and of whom you will have an opportunity of making enquiry, as my word it seems is not sufficient. I agree with you that it is an insult to christianity, and I assure you that it is meant as such by the Bashaw; but we are not the only nation that has been insulted, as the son of Ali Bashaw begins all his letters to

christian powers in the same manner. Farfara promises his influence, whether he is sincere or not I will not pretend to determine, but he candidly owns he has very little in his power; Ciddi Mahommed Daguize is the Bashaw's chief counsellor, and to whom we are indebted for the restoration of the Catharine's cargo, as at first he was determined to condemn it. Farfara informed me of this himself; he said he was sick all the time of the transaction—he and I are on very good terms. As my correspondence with Government was pretty extensive during my residence at Philadelphia, I think it not mal-appropos to introduce the following extract from my letter to the Secretary of State of the 1st of May, 1798, and as it is the basis on which my conduct in Barbary has been founded, any man that is charged with the affairs of the United States in Barbary that enters on his employment with a spirit of avarice, or a desire to see but what is annexed to the honor of succeeding, and by that acquiring the confidence and esteem of the Government that employs him, will never rise above an indifferent person; and if any important arrangement succeeds in his hands the success must only be attributed to the fortunate conjuncture which alone removes all the difficulties. It is superfluous to observe that a man of education ought to be preferred to a person of little or no learning; an illiterate negotiation is apt to fall into many inconveniences through the obscurity and ill construction of his discourse and dispatches. In my opinion it is not enough to weigh an affair well; it is likewise necessary to know how to explain ones thoughts clearly and intelligently in writing, to avoid every double entendre that may appear doubtful or admit of two significations; in short, not to write anything in an affected style, either to hide his own ignorance or increase his own consequence, but in a pure and concise style remote from an affectation of learning and wit, as from negligence and impoliteness. In public disputes facts ought to be specified with the principal circumstances serving to elucidate them, which will enable

your correspondent to dive into the most secret motives on which they act, with whom the negotiation is treating as fully as if immediately on the spot himself,—a dispatch which only gives an account of facts without entering into the motives, can pass for no other than a gazette. Now, sir, from the foregoing I hope you will be convinced that had any demands originated upon the United States through my imprudence, that I would at least have had candor enough to acknowledge it, and I only regret that it is not the case. By the inclosed papers, certificate and circular letter, you will be informed of every particular, and see the necessity of alarming our commerce, which I pray you to do by every conveyance; from here it is out of my power and what will be the result God only knows. Much will depend upon the part the Dey of Algiers takes in our affairs, and be assured, sir, that whatever depends upon me shall be done, and that you shall be duly informed of every particular as soon as possible. I am, sir,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

P. S. In your letter to the Secretary of State of July 4, 1798, a copy of which I have by me, is the following P. S., dated Algiers, July 9, 1798. "I expect to do away this great demand for the sum of $10,000." This shows that plans were not adopted to get entirely clear of the demand, vide remarks on the succession of Mustapha Bashaw.

TRIPOLI, Nov. 17, 1800.

William Eaton, Esq.

Dear Sir:—By an English brig commanded by Capt. Lambeck I forwarded three packets left in the possession of said Captain and one in the hands of Hagi Shaban, who I hope has delivered them safe, and that you soon will receive an answer to them from Algiers, which you will please to

forward by a courier extraordinary. By the inclosed certificate and papers you will be informed of everything that has transpired since. My letter to Mr. Lee of the 1st November, certificate in French and circular letter, is of importance sufficient to make some excuse for requesting you to cause them to be copied and forwarded to the Department of State. I am sensible of the trouble I give you, but my sincere acknowledgment and the service you render your country will be some atonement. Inclosed is my answer to Mr. O'Brien; he, as usual, is indefatigable in charging me with actions I despise; he ought to consider that while he is gratifying an insiduous spirit of revenge, that he is betraying the interests of his country. His insinuations should have been treated with silent contempt had I not deemed it expedient to put this affair in a perspicuous point of view, which I hope will be the means of preventing such unfounded allegation in future; be that as it may, I will do my duty which no consideration upon earth shall have power to counteract. Part of his letter seems to be worthy its dictators, the sanhedrim. Give me leave to correct one error. You say in yours of the 20th of October: "It is presumed that the Bey's demands of $10,000 will be acceded." The Bashaw has never stated any specific sum, as you have since been informed, that $10,000 would content the Bashaw was merely a conjecture of my own, and had I had power at that time to have made him that offer, I think it would have kept him quiet; but it would have opened the way for fresh demands, and would have indicated that the consul had power to act without orders from his Government; which is false, and if true would be manifestly impolite to let it be known. Your observations relative to Farfara are true. Whenever there is any difficulty to surmount he withdraws, and says he is sick, and when any demands are made by the Bashaw he is the first to communicate them to the different consuls; for instance, while the brig Catharine was here he never stirred out of his house for fear I should ask him to

take a message to the castle, which might be disagreeable to the Bashaw, and to screen himself from blame had the vessel been condemned. On the day after her departure he came to my house and congratulated me upon my success,—he is a Jew, sir. I have nothing farther to communicate at present, but what is contained in the inclosed papers, and am with respect and esteem,

Your friend and fellow exile,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

In my next I will give you some account of the reception the Swede commandant will receive here, as we are informed there is a Swedish frigate at Tunis. Please to pay the bearer of these dispatches $3.00 and charge it to the account of the United States.

TRIPOLI, NOV. 21, 1800.

William Eaton, Esq.

My Dear Sir:—Notwithstanding the hurry I wrote the within dispatches the 17th inst., I have been informed that the bearer is still in town and departs immediately. I thank you for your offer of accepting my bills, but everyone that has money here is afraid to own it, as it is a great crime, in this city, to be rich. When the Swedish frigate leaves your place will be a good opportunity to furnish me with some cash. If it will be convenient to you I should thank you, at all times, for your opinion and advice. Inclosed is a copy-press circular which will save you some trouble. I have not had time to copy my protest and reference, which I have reason to believe you have received, as we have received intelligence of the brig's safe arrival at Ifax, from whence she is to depart to your place. The schooner Hamdullah left here on the last of October; there was no letter of consequence in her, I not deeming the conveyance safe. There is a report circulated today that she is lost at Querquena,—

God send it will be much in our favor. If you hear any thing of it please to inform Mr. O'Brien, that he may take his measures with that Regency before the arrival of the ambassador and Algerines. Mr. O'Brien ought to interest the honor and pride of the Dey, and make use of such arguments as would convince the Dey that he was maintaining his own honor more than serving the United States. No more at present from the foot ball of that capricious dame, fortune.

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

TRIPOLI, Nov. 22, 1800.

Richard O'Brien, Esq., Consul General of America at Algiers.

Sir:—I have given it as my unalterable opinion that the best manner of maintaining the peace of the United States of America with the Regency of Tripoli upon honorable and equitable terms, is by force of arms. I persist in that opinion and nothing but occular demonstration will ever convince me to the contrary. You have informed me that the Dey of Algiers will interfere in our affairs only by letter, which of course, will be no more respected than the letters which I brought with me from Algiers in March, 1799, unless accompanied by a sum of money. From letters which I have lately received it seems to me that a temporizing conduct will be adopted for the present by the United States, dictated more by the exigencies of the times than from any necessity of complying with the Bashaw's unjust demands. It likewise appears to me highly probable that if our treaty with France should be ratified, that it may involve serious consequences, and that a disturbance with Great Britain may be the result; the consequences are evident, but this is merely a conjecture. Should the Bashaw even wait for the President's answer to his and my letters, and that I

should receive orders to adjust this affair on the best terms I could; and that said orders should be unaccompanied with force, the Bashaw's demands would be extravagant beyond conception, as his views are very much extended in consequence of his success against Sweden; and his chief aim is to have a pretext to capture our vessels, to enslave our fellow citizens, and to exact an exorbitant sum for their ransom, and then to accommodate matters again on a basis no more solid than they were before. From the said premises you will naturally see the necessity of adjusting this affair as soon as possible, lest the Swedes should make concessions in consequence of having 131 of their subjects in captivity, which would increase the Bashaw's avarice and make him expect that our donations would bear some proportion to theirs; for I now inform you again, sir, as I have informed Government fourteen months ago, that it will be impossible to maintain our peace with this Regency, unless by force of arms or force of gold. It occurs to me, sir, that the most prudent manner for you to proceed in at Algiers, and which seems most likely to insure success is to present my protest to the Dey yourself, having previously prepared the Hasnagi (Prime Minister) and other grandees to second your request, to then make use of such arguments as will interest the Dey of Algiers' pride; inform him that it is derogatory to the dignity of the Regency of Algiers to permit the Bashaw of Tripoli to annul his guarantee, and inform him that if he does not resent this insult that the Regency of Tunis will follow the example, and that the influence maintained by his predecessors will cease any longer to exist. Assure him that by enforcing the guarantee as mediator between the two parties he will maintain his own dignity more than serving the United States, as we are not destitute of force sufficient to compel such a contemptible place as Tripoli to respect our flag; and that you have merely made the reference in compliment to the Dey, and in consequence of the stipulations contained in the 12th article

of the treaty between the United States and this Regency. As an ignorant man in office generally is very proud and easily imitated, you will probably succeed, and when you have charged your political pop gun with inflammable air, touch it off easy; and I should advise you then to act as mediator in your turn and inform the Bey that to convince him that the United States wishes nothing more than to maintain their peace with the Barbary States, that as a proof—and for the Dey,—that the United States would give $10,000 or $12,000, as we knew he was poor. But by all means let the Dey know that it was for his sake alone that we gave that sum. This would be gratifying the pride and vanity of the Dey, who would not fail to arrogate the credit of having procured the forementioned sum merely by his own influence; he would thereby maintain his honor and dignity as mediator between the two parties. It will probably be the means of keeping the Bashaw within bounds, and of setting a precedent and pointing out a line of conduct to be pursued in future when any other demand is made, which you may depend will be every two or three years, and perhaps oftener if not repelled by force. The above, sir, is my opinion and advice which I have couched in such terms as will neither admit of a double entendre, misrepresentation, or have the appearance of dictating to you; but as I have no pretensions to infallibility I submit the whole to the decision of your superior judgment. May the Lord inspire us to do what is rght, prays,

Your humble servant,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

P. S. Your answer to my communications are requested as soon as possible, which you will please to forward by a courier extraordinary to Mr. Eaton, who I will request to do the same. The arrival of the ship Washington, no doubt, will insure our credit at Algiers. Adieu.

TRIPOLI, Nov., 1800.

Mr. Tulin, Tunis.

My Dear Sir:—The courier still remaining gave me an opportunity to write the inclosed; he is now below with the mail in his hand, and I have reason to believe will set off directly; he promises to be in Tunis in 12 or 14 days at farthest. Forward the inclosed with all speed, and request Mr. O'Brien to make all the dispatch in his power; inform him that when the Bashaw hears of the arrival of the Anna Maria at Tunis, that it will awaken his avarice, and I can not calculate the consequences. I will delay as long as possible in order to get letters from Algiers and Lisbon, and instructions from Government, and if there is no other remedy I will employ an emollient at the risk of my political salvation. I have long surmised that in cases of difficulty that I should be left to myself, I therefore will act for the best, for our peace must be maintained with gold if the President does not think proper to send force—at all events our citizens must not be enslaved. I thank you for the copy of the treaty, and your communications on different subjects give me your opinion as usual, and accept the assurances of your sincere friend and

Humble servant,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

Mrs. Cathcart presents her compliments to you and all friends; she wonders she has not heard from Mrs. Tulin lately. Adieu.

TRIPOLI, Nov. 27, 1800.

Thomas Appleton, Esq., Leghorn.

Sir:—Our affairs with this Regency are in the same state that they were when I wrote you last. The continuance of our peace depends upon the manner the Swedes conclude theirs; until that takes place it is hardly probable the Ba-

shaw will begin with us. On the 25th inst. arrived a French National bark commanded by an officer who wears the uniform of a captain, his name I do not know, who concluded a truce with this Regency upon the same terms as the truce was concluded between the French Republic and Algiers and Tunis; she sails this evening, I presume, bound to Egypt, as Col. Bosse who was aid-de-camp to Gen. Bonaparte during his campaign in those countries, is on board with his family. The only news relative to our affairs is that two of our ministers have returned to America with the treaty, on board of two French frigates, who are bound upon discovery, and that the third remains at Paris until the treaty is affixed. The news of Europe you have better information of than I can boast, I therefore need not trouble you with any thing this vessel has brought. Their account in general gives more hope of a general peace than any we have yet heard. If Capt. Carpenter is still at Leghorn you will please to inform him that the Moors that carried his vessel out of the harbor of Tripoli, made me pay them ten dollars for fishing and finding his anchor, which he lost in a gale of wind, and which they swore they delivered to him on board; if he has received the anchor he will please to give you ten dollars for me, or pay it into the hands of Mr. Angiolo D'Andreis. If the Moors have deceived me I of course must put up with the deception. If there is any thing in this Regency in which I can serve you please to command me without reserve, and believe me to be with respect

Your very humble servant,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

TRIPOLI, Nov. 27th, 1800.

Conrad Fred Wagner, Consul for United States of America, Triest.

Sir:—In consequence of certain demands having been

made upon the United States of America in the month of May, which were referred to the decision of the President of the United States, whose answer has not arrived, the Bashaw of Tripoli has declared that he will declare war against said United States if the President's answer does not arrive, on or before the 22nd day of next April; and that if said answer should arrive before said period, and should not be satisfactory that he will capture the vessels of the United States of America. I therefore request you to use your endeavors to prevent vessels of the United States or America from trading in these seas after the 22nd day of March, 1801. If this affair is not amicably settled before that time it will expose them to capture, the Barbary States generally commencing hostilities about a month before the limited perod expires.

Your humble servant,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

TRIPOLI, 1800.

William Eaton, Esq., Tunis.

Dear Sir:—I have acknowledged the receipt of all your letters by three conveyances,—three packets I sent you by an English brig, two of which were committed to the care of Capt. Lamberty, and the other to Hadgi Shaban, since which I have forwarded a large packet, tied up with twine, containing letters for several persons, and an order to you to pay the courier three dollars to insure its safety; and lastly a large packet by Mr. Coster's courier extraordinary, which will inform you of the state of our affairs here and my advice to O'Brien, and my intentions in case of necessity. No alternation has taken place since, and I will endeavor to spin out the time here until I hear from Algiers, Lisbon, and if possible from Government. I hope my answers will be satisfactory to Mr. O'Brien; I am sure they

will be satisfactory to all honest and impartial men. I am sorry I was forced into so disagreeable a discussion, but my honor required it, and I am always ready to give an account of my conduct to Government whenever it may be demanded; but, as I have never been censured from that quarter I have no occasion to make any defense. As for the ungenerous and false insinuations of Mr. O'Brien, I dispise them equal to their author. I don't wonder at them in the least, for it really is neither his interest, nor the interest of his colleagues, that I should remain in Barbary; he knows that I enjoy the confidence of Government, and that I will, in a great measure, prevent him from imposing his absurdities upon the executive; that he has endeavored to do it in many instances is past a doubt; I shall only quote the following, as I have not sufficient proof in the eye of the law for any other.

Extract of a letter dated Algiers, Nov. 29th, 1798, from Mr. O'Brien to the Secretary of State, which I copied from Mr. O'Brien's own handwriting:

"Dear Sir:—The dispatches to you is by the American polacca the Vikilhadge, Capt. Dasson, master, destined for New York with a cargo of wines, brandy, soap and paper by order of the Dey, having the French, Spanish and British passports, and certifying said cargo to belong to Algerine subjects."

Here Mr. O'Brien would wish to have it understood that the Dey had given orders to him to put the vessel under American colors, when said vessel and cargo was bought by himself and Jews, that in case any accident should happen to her a claim might be made upon the Government of the United States for thrice her value, in like manner as the claims relative to the ship Fortune was made, and Mr. O'Brien would screen himself by saying it was the Dey's orders. Mr. O'Brien may make the Secretary of State believe such things, but he knows that Cathcart is better informed. No, sir, the Jews dare not make such a request,

as it is considered degrading for any Turk in office to trade, and a Dey of Algiers was never known to traffic or to trouble himself any further than to sell his prizes, and in case any of his subjects put their property under the flag of a nation at peace with the Regency, and through misfortune was lost, to demand three times its value in order that he might share the booty. In Mr. O'Brien's letter to Messrs. Governeur & Kemble, of New York, dated Nov. 30, 1798, which I likewise copied from his own handwriting he says:

"Yesterday sailed from this port to your address the American polacca called the Vikilhadge, Thomas Dasson, master, having the Dey's certificate as pass (this every prize that is purchased by any person receives,) the French, Spanish and British certificates of their cargo, being Algerine property belonging to Joseph Coen Bacri subject of Algiers (but not their National passports as Mr. O'Brien informed the Secretary of State). Mr. Abraham K. Brashier, of New York, is on board; he has a certificate from me of the vessel and cargo being my property—that is full sufficient for your custom house. On my part you will receive a note of the articles to be sent in return, and if any of the goods mentioned should be British manufacture, you can avoid mentioning it in manifest and conceal them in some of the sugar boxes, or as you can best devise."

And I shall leave you to comment upon this proceeding and will only observe that it smells strong of the sanhedrim and that Mr. O'Brien has placed his consular seal to a lie and is self-convicted. Now, sir, a man that will be guilty of falsehood and misrepresentation to serve his interests in one instance, will seldom hesitate at it in another, and I must farther declare that after Mr. Clark's behavior in Algiers, that no friend to his country would recommend him to Government as Mr. O'Brien did in his letter of March, 1798, in the following words:

"Mr. Clark has conducted our affairs tolerable well considering the difficulties he had to surmount. I hope the

United States will give him some appointment in Spain if any offers."

In short, Mr. O'Brien is a janus who keeps two journals as well as two faces. I can prove from his own handwriting that he never speaks as he thinks, and he seems to glory in the deception; his actions stink in my very nostrils, and I do not wonder that he should league with a Jew to injure his former friend; he would sacrifice, if he found it his interest to do so, Jesus Christ—but I defy him. Neither Farfara, nor the Jews at Algiers, have the influence they make O'Brien believe they have; they never ask any thing that is against the inclination of the Bashaw. When they are sent with a disagreeable message they go to the palace, drink a cup of coffee and bring a lie out without ever seeing the Dey. The great Bacri was requested, when our peace took place, to request leave for O'Brien to carry our dispatches; he went to the palace but never asked for the desired permission, and then came out and told Mr. Donaldson the Dey had refused the request. Next day I went and asked the Dey in reality and obtained the favor. Thus he invariably acts with all the consuls that do not transact their own business, and this accounts at once for their being my enemy, as they know that during the three years that I was the Dey's head clerk I had an opportunity of being acquainted with all their intrigues and villainy. That they now despair of making the United States tributary to the sanhedrim, at least at Tunis and Tripoli I believe is evident, that it was their intention I presume you are pretty well convinced. I have proof that the United States has never received the least favor from Farfara since my arrival here, and the $2,000 which were given him has been of no use whatever, but on the contrary has been an injury to us, as it makes him expect more and being disappointed he, of course, becomes the enemy of any agent that will not feed his avarice; nevertheless, I deem it prudent to be on good terms with him as long as I can remain so without becoming tributary,

but he will never get a cent from me before he renders the United States a service at least equal to the premium. I transact my own business when I am permitted and when I am not at the next audience. I repeat every word Judas informs me, and at present I assure you he is afraid to deceive me, as he knows the next time I see the Bashaw I will interrogate, and consequently detect him; but to give Farfara his due he has candidly declared that he is afraid to espouse the cause of a Christian, and in cases of difficulty with all negotiations he absolutely refuses to interfere, in the same manner as he has done on my arrival; and when the brig Catharine was sent in here the only use Farfara has ever been to me, or ever will be, is to advance money when I want it, which he can not at all times do—this very day I was obliged to borrow five piasters from my drogoman to pay my wash woman. No, sir, neither the Jews nor anyone else can hurt me here without money; if they choose to advance $5,000 or $6,000 and consular present they would succeed, and so they would was the President of the United States a consul here, unless he pleased to counteract their malice by a larger sum. But I can hardly believe that either the sanhedrim, or their echo or secretary—call him which you please—has courage sufficient to try the experiment. I request you not to send any letters via Algiers but those destined for that place. I am informed that Mr. Latimer has written to me twice or thrice, and Mr. Appleton has informed me that he has written to me via Algiers, but I have never received the letters,—what depravity if stopped through malice. I can not imagine what stops the Anna Maria. I was in hopes that the arrival of the Hero would keep all quiet at Tunis. I hope nothing serious is contemplated by that Government, to the disadvantage of our country. Patience and fortitude, my good friends, is necessary; let us do our duty and we can do no more. What can an individual effect where no justice is to be obtained but by force of arms, and no friendship exists but what is inspired

by hopes of gain. The letters which I received are all family letters. In one of the 26th of last May, I have been informed that not one word has been heard from me since the arrival of the Sophia, at the Department of State; this includes a mystery which I cannot develope. I can hardly imagine it possible unless the devil has employed at least half a dozen of imps to interrupt my letters. I hope the Great Anna Maria will bring me better news. This is an infernal country to live in, and by no means fit for an honest man. I will resign as soon as I can with decency. The only consolation that I have is that I am serving my country; if I succeed well and good; if not, I am not the only person whose endeavors have not been crowned with success; many a great general has lost a battle by treachery as well as force of arms. It gives me pleasure to assert that in whatever situation I may be in, I shall always be your sincere

Friend and humble servant,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

TRIPOLI, Dec. 14, 1800.

Hon. William Smith, Lisbon.

On the 7th of October I had the honor of requesting your opinion and advice relative to my dispatches of last May, which I had forwarded in duplicates via Algiers and Tunis. By the last courier I forwarded to you two copies of my last dispatch to Government, and of my letter of advice to Mr. O'Brien, the inclosed copy of the 18th of October excepted, as I had already forwarded two copies to Mr. O'Brien with my protest of the 29th, requesting him to forward the whole to you by the first opportunity. By the aforesaid letters and my circular and inclosed certificate, you will be informed of the exact state of our affairs here—no alterations taken place since. If the Bashaw waits longer, or even as long as he has promised, he will act with greater honor than ever he has done to any nation before since he commenced his

reign. But I am in hopes if Mr. O'Brien acts with energy, as I have advised him, and does not confide in the promises of the perfidious pusillanimous Jews, that this affair will be settled for $10,000 or $12,000, at least for the present; but to maintain their peace in Tripoli in any other way than by force of arms, is a mere farce. The United States, in point of existence, is as a nation but of yesterday; we have settled a peace for a sum of money as other nations generally have done, but as yet we are classed by this Regency with no other nation. We are not respected as Great Britain, France and Portugal are, imposed on in a friendly manner as Spain is, nor treated with the contempt that the tributary nations as Denmark or Sweden are; because our treaty is of so recent a date, and the Bashaw of Tripoli has been so unsettled unto this period, that he has not had an opportunity to make any demands upon us, nor time to consider what steps will be most likely to insure his success—he has now commenced. If the United States sends a small squadron into the Mediterranean and absolutely refuses to give this government one cent, except by way of douceur or voluntary present—as the French and English occasionally pay—the amount of which remaining entirely at their own option, they will be respected as any nation will be that has acted with energy; but they will be obliged to keep two or three frigates at least three years in the Mediterranean, which ought to make their appearance frequently in order to let the Bashaw see that we are determined not to be imposed upon, and that our resolves are permanent and not only temporary. Had the Danes and Swedes acted thus they would to this day neither be tributary to this Regency, nor would the Swedes have 131 of their subjects in captivity. If the President orders me to settle this affair in the best manner I can, the Bashaw's demand will be exorbitant, and he will not fail to insist that the United States shall pay him a sum annually equal to what the Swedes and Danes pay—let that be what it will, as is more fully explained to you in

my dispatches, which I pray you to forward to the Department of State by the first conveyance. I shall endeavor to temporise with the Bashaw until I receive your opinion and advice relative to the best manner of conducting our affairs. Until I hear from Algiers, and if possible from Government, and if there is no alternative, I will settle this affair as well as I can without orders, at the risk of my political salvation; for at all events our fellow citizens must not be enslaved. Imperious necessity must be acceded to, and will point out the propriety of my submitting to a small imposition in order to prevent so great a national calamity. On the 25th ult. arrived here in eight days from Toulon the French national xebeck Guerrier, commanded by Joseph Severe Ballat; on the 26th she was saluted with 21 guns in consequence of having concluded a truce between the French Republic and this Regency, until the pleasure of the French government is known. Ballat not being empowered to enter into any particular negotiation, she sailed on the 27th, bound as is supposed to Alexandria, having on board Col. Bosse who was aid-de-camp to Gen. Bonaparte during his campaign in Egypt and Syria. They procured a passport from the Bashaw to enter any of the ports of this Regency, which I presume was their motive for demanding a truce, in order to open an intercourse between Egypt and France through the medium of this Regency, and to insure a retreat should they be driven out of Egypt. I shall not trouble you with the news they have brought us; you are so much better informed than I can be in this infernal Regency where truth, honor and justice are only esteemed useful as they serve to promote the interest of the individual, from a persuasion that truth has in its own nature no advantage over falsehood, and that the value of both is to be determined and esteemed according to the advantage resulting from them. I am, sir, with sentiments of very great respect and esteem,

Your most obedient servant,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

I request you not to communicate any thing to me via Algiers; for many reasons you had best correspond via Barcelona and Tunis.

TRIPOLI, Dec. 16, 1800.

William Eaton, Esq., Tunis.

Dear Sir:—Inclosed is a packet for Mr. Smith, which you will please to forward via Spain. I am waiting in anxious expectation for letters from the westward. I have no news whatever—we are waiting with impatience for the Swedish frigate, on board of which I hope you have sent me some cash. Mrs. Cathcart joins me in her respects to you and Mrs. Tulin's family, and believe me to be at all times your sincere friend and

Humble servant,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

TRIPOLI, Dec. 26, 1800.

William Eaton, Esq., Tunis.

Dear Sir:—Inclosed, or in the hand of the bearer, is a bill of exchange for 700 mahboobs, which you will please to pay thirty days after sight or sooner if convenient. I have received the $800 from Baron de Tornquist; he arrived on the 24th inst. and dines with me today; my child is likewise to be baptised, so that you will naturally suppose I have a busy day and an agreeable one, as it is seldom we have such good company here; nevertheless I have left my company to write you this, not thinking myself justifiable to keep the inclosed letters which I hope are from America. They came in the packet from Mr. Appleton, which you sent me by the Thetis. The packet by the Anna Maria is a copy of one I received by the Washington of the 26th of last May.

Not one word have I received from the Department of State. I have received a very polite letter from Mr. O'Brien; he says he is sick of Barbary and is going home. The General Gerun is expected at Algiers. The wind seems to be coming from the N. W. which will insure you another letter from me—at least with the receipts. Do not send me any more cash before next April. I shall draw for the ballance of my account upon you at Algiers. Mr. Farfara informed me yesterday that the Bacris had written to inform them of the state of American affairs here, and that Azulai at Tunis has orders to accept all my bills; whether he has only told me this to get the 700 mahboobs, or is fact, you will be able to determine by asking Azulai. I am, with sentiments of esteem,

Yours in sincerity,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

No Swedish business settled yet; under a flag of truce they transact their business and dine with me. Adieu.

TRIPOLI, Dec. 31, 1800.

My Dear Sir:—I received yours of the 17th of October on the 27th inst., and am much obliged to you for having multiplied the conveyance of the dispatches left over for your perusal. I have forwarded quadruplicates of all my dispatches to Government since last April, and the devil must be busy indeed if one of them does not arrive. Inclosed is a letter from Algiers, open, which you will please to forward and if any communications of consequence comes from Algiers for me, please to send them by a courier extraordinary with orders to deliver them into my hands, and to take a receipt for them from me, otherwise you will not pay him, as several letters have been kept back lately, this precaution is necessary. Inclosed is a copypress impression of my answers to Mr. O'Brien, and certificate according to request,

with three receipts for the $800 sent by you in the Thetis on the 26th inst. and drew a bill of exchange thirty days after sight for mahboobs seven hundred, which you will please to pay to Sidi Abdullah ben Hamed Godansino, and charge it in your account current with the United States, which I will account for to Government—seven hundred mahboobs in Algiers is worth $945. Farfara will only take them for $875, which makes a difference of $70. You will please to inform me what they are worth at Tunis for my Government. On the 26th my little daughter Eisa was baptised by the Swedish clergyman, the Commodore and Mrs. Tulin being sponsors. I have nothing worthy your attention at present, and am most sincerely

Your friend and servant,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

Mrs. Cathcart joins me most cordially in wishing you the compliments of the season.

TRIPOLI, Dec. 31, 1800.

Richard O'Brien, Esq., Algiers.

Sir:—Yours of the 19th and 21st of October came to hand a few days ago; our affairs are in the same state as when I wrote you last; there is a Swedish frigate here under a flag of truce, the Commodore came on shore the 25th inst. but at present I see little hopes of accommodation; the Bashaw's demands are unreasonable, and Com. Tornquist is resolved to conclude upon honorable and permanent terms or not at all; at least until he receives a sufficient reinforcement to let the Bashaw know that his emperium is impregnable; you may guess without much trouble the part I take in this negotiation, for on it depends the terms of our peace as well as continuance of it, for you may depend, sir, that if Sweden or Denmark makes concessions Columbia must likewise, though probably not immedately, as last week an

ambassador chaoux or courier, call him which you please, arrived with a very smart firman from the Grand Signore, demanding restitution of property captured from the Ragusans to the amount of $100,000, and threatening, I do not know what, if not complied with. No answer has yet been given by the Bashaw, but you may depend that he would wish to keep the Dey of Algiers and Bey of Tunis his friends, at least until his affairs are settled in the Levant. This consideration, I hope, will give energy to your operations at Algiers, and the Washington going to Constantinople will be an equivalent to the Bashaw, of the Hamdullah and the negro women sent by his excellency of Tripoli to the god of war. On the 26th inst. citizen Billam concluded a truce, word for word, the same as was concluded between the French Republic and the Regency of Tunis *sans donatives*. The said gentleman brought a letter from Bacri to Farfara dated the 18th of Kisvan, which corresponds with the 5th or 6th of November, in which he desires to know where I got money for my disbursements, and to inform him that Azulai at Tunis has orders to accept and pay any bills upon him drawn by me. I should be glad to be informed officially if it is by your orders as I have never drawn upon Azulai for one dollar yet—indeed I have no occasion. You will please to acknowledge the receipt of this as soon as possible, and if the Dey of Algiers writes to the Bashaw of Tripoli, please to send the letter open to Mr. Eaton in order that he may get Mr. Adamson to translate it for our better information. Ever since the arrival of the frigate, Farfara has been afflicted with a disorder called the hydrophobia Swedoire, Ciddi Mahommed Daguize negotiates on the part of the Bashaw. I have had no opportunity to write to Europe since I wrote you last, I therefore request you to alarm our commerce as we are the next upon the list; however, by the 1st of May, I hope to have instructions from the Government, and when you write to me be very particular in the detail with the Dey of Algiers; and I pray you to

make the greatest dispatch. I should much rather see Truxton and six sail of frigates than hear of his coming; it will be too late after our ships are captured and fellow citizens enslaved. If Tornquist does not give him a drastic, it shall not be for want of recommendation on my part. I wish I was in his place and had power to act as he has. If you should return to the United States, as you say you intend, I wish you a pleasant passage, and I particularly request you to deposit my letters to you in the State Department. I am, sir, with all due respect,

Your humble servant,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

N. B. Inclosed is a letter for you given me by the Danish consul. I request you to inform me the name of the person you intend to leave in charge of our affairs during your absence, likewise his character, that I may judge what dependance ought to be placed in him.

Messrs. O'Brien and Eaton.

Gentlemen:—Give me leave to inform you that this day Com. Tornquist concluded a peace between his Majesty of Sweden and this Regency on the following terms:

For peace and the ransom of 131 captives, $240,000; contingent expenses, about $10,000; total $250,000.

Com. Tornquist has engaged that the kingdom of Sweden shall pay the Regency of Tripoli $20,000 in consequence of having to load 15 ships of 200 tons burden each, annually with salt at Suarez. Thus has the Bashaw carried his grand point of establishing an annuity, and these are the terms of similar ones, which will be demanded from the United States, Danes and Batavians. I therefore request you, gentlemen, to alarm our commerce immediately (from here I have few opportunities,) as you must naturally see the impossibility of my agreeing to such exorbitant demands.

In my next I will be more particular, and am respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

Chancery of U. S. of America, Tripoli, Jan. 7, 1800.

William Eaton, Esq.

My Dear Sir:—Inclosed are the terms on which the Swedes have concluded their peace here, which you will please to register in your office and forward on to Algiers as soon as possible, as you may depend we will otherwise share the fate of the Swedes. I had some hopes in the interference of the Dey of Algiers, but I am afraid as yet to risk an opinion. Inclosed in mine of 26th and 31st ultimo, I sent you the receipts. I, at present, have only time to assure you that I am your sincere friend and

Humble servant,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

Chancery U. S. of America, Tripoli, Jan. 2, 1801.

CIRCULAR.

To the Agents and Consuls of the United States of America residing in the different ports of France, Spain and Portugal, Italy, the Barbary States, and British Garrisons in the Mediterranean, and unto all others whom it doth or may concern:

Gentlemen:—I had the honor to inform you in my circular of the 19th of November, 1800, that wheren unjust demands had been made upon the United States of America—which I find it my duty to repel—that said Bashaw had publicly announced in an official manner that he would declare war against said United States in six months from the 2nd day of October, 1800, if his demands, which he proposes to make

in an evasive and deteminate manner, was not complied with. I farther informed you that it would be unsafe for our unarmed vessels to trade in the Mediterranean, or its vicinity, after the 22nd of March, 1800, as those faithless people generally commit depredations before the time or period allowed arrives. I likewise informed you that I did not conclude, in virtue of his promise, that our vessels might remain until the month of March; but in consequence of this Regency being at war with Sweden—and the season of the year—I have now therefore to observe that a treaty of peace and amity having been concluded between his Majesty on this day, the 3d of Jan., 1801, that it is no longer safe for the merchant vessels of the United States of America to remain in those seas or its vicinity, as the Swedes made the following agreement in consequence of their having 131 of their subjects in bondage. They have agreed to pay $250,000, all charges included, for peace and the ransom of their captives; and $20,000 annually in consequence of their being allowed to load at Suarez, 3,000 tons of salt every year; and as I have every reason to suppose that the same terms will be demanded from the United States and that our fellow citizens will be captives with said degrading, humiliatnig and dishonorable terms, I find it my duty to request you to take such measures as will effectually prevent our vessels loading in this sea until you are advised officially by me, or either of our consuls at Algiers or Tunis, that this disagreeable business is terminated, which from its nature will require much time, as it intends making the United States of America tributary to Tripoli, and must first be authorized by a particular act of the legislature. I therefore request the forementioned agents and consuls of the United States of America, and all others whom it may and doth concern, to communicate the contents of this circular letter to all merchants and masters of vessels belonging to the United States of America, in order that they may withdraw their property from those seas immedi-

ately, and that our mariners may fly the impending danger. I likewise request them to make this letter circular, and to transmit copies of it along the respective coast of their residence, and likewise to the Department of State, and wherever they may imagine it will be most likely to answer the desired effect. In testimony of the most absolute necessity of using the foresaid precaution before it should be too late I hereunto subscribe any name and affix the seal of my office. Done at the Chancery of the United States of America, in the City of Tripoli, in Barbary, the 3rd day of January, in the year of our Lord 1800, and of the Independence of the United States of America the 25th.

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

Messrs. O'Brien and Eaton.

Hon. John Marshall, Secretary of State.

Sir:—By my dispatches of the 18th of October and 1st of November, 1800, you have been informed of the whole of our affairs with this Regency, and with the steps which I have taken to evade the impending dangers. I confirm the contents of said dispatches which are now publicly declared in consequence of the arrival of his Swedish Majesty's frigate, Thetis, on the 24th of December. On the 2nd instant Commodore Tornquist, his Swedish Majesty's Envoy extraordinary, concluded a peace between the kingdom of Sweden and this Regency upon the following terms: To be paid for the peace and ransom of 131 captives, $240,000; contingent expenses at least, $10,000; total amount, $250,000.

Com. Tornquist has engaged that the kingdom of Sweden shall pay this Regency $20,000 in cash for having permission to load 15 ships of 200 tons burden each with salt at Suarez, (generally pronounced Zoare) the Bashaw gives the salt gratis; the Swedes are to pay the expenses

of embarking the said vessels which will not be trifling. The particulars of the agreement were that in consequence of above concession, the Bashaw would permit the captives to embark immediately, and that the ambassador should pawn his honor that the cash should be brought here in 6 months, or in less if possible; that the consul, Mr. Burstrom, was to remain here, and to exercise the duties of his office as formerly, and with his household to enjoy the same immunities as before the war commenced. On the 2nd inst., in the evening, the banners of Sweden were hoisted, by the Bashaw's request, upon the Danish house, and a temporary flag staff was prepared in order that the customary salute should be fired next day. When peace takes place with any nation it is customary for the different consuls to congratulate the Bashaw upon the event; you may judge with what a grace I performed a ceremony so repugnant to my feelings—but it was necessary. I accordingly waited upon his excellency in company with the Danish consul, Swedish ex-consul, Mr. Burstrom, and others; after congratulation, performation, fumigation, and drinking of coffee and sherbet were over, commenced the following litigation: "I have concluded a peace with the Swedes," commenced the Bashaw, "and I am certain the King of Sweden is sensible that I was forced to declare war against his nation contrary to my inclination, for had my demands been satisfied in the first instance I should not have captured their ships and enslaved their people. Some nations," added he (meaning the United States) "have used me very ill; they look upon me as nothing; they have recourse to Algiers for all things." I should be glad to know which is thought most of at Constantinople, I could easily have solved that doubt by saying that the Dey of Algiers had lately sent presents to the Grand Signore to the amount of a million of dollars, which were powerful arguments in his favor; but as the conversation was general I did not conceive it incumbent on me to answer his prologue any more than the rest of the company;

in fact I could say nothing but what I have communicated already. The Bashaw observing my silence directed his discourse to me, asked me if I understood the Turkish and Arabic languages? I answered I had a trifling knowledge of them but spoke them so miserably that I never made any use of them, especially as his excellency and his ministers all spoke Italian. "Pray," says the Bashaw, "what was the present Dey of Algiers in the reign of Mahommed Bashaw?" I answered that he was a person very much respected in consequence of his being the cousin of Hassan Bashaw, but that he had no post whatever. "And pray what was Hassan Bashaw at that time?" First, he was Vikelharch of the Marine, and afterwards was made a Prime Minister and Treasurer; in Algiers he was styled Hasnagi. The Bashaw turned up his nose with visible contempt and was going to proceed when a person informed him that a piece of timber was not to be found in the whole Regency large enough to make a flag staff for the Swedes, unless he took one of the cruisers spars. "It is a difficult thing," says the son of Aly Bashaw, "to put a flag staff up when it once comes down. When the American flag staff comes down it will take a great deal of greasing (meaning money) to get it up again." The Danish flag staff is broke, I hear, and wants mending with a new one. He smiled a ghastly grin and said "after all what is $20,000 for a Christian nation to pay a year that has such vast resources? Had I enough to live on I would not trouble myself with cruisers, although my subjects wishes war because it is to their advantage. How many Raises," added he,"have I that knows the way to the great sea?" Admiral Marad assured "about twenty." I believe there not being one capable but himself without accompanying them, show that the Bashaw and his officers pays no regard to truth. "Well," replied his excellency, "I will find them vessels in Tripoli, consul; we are all hungry, and if we are not provided for we soon get sick and perish." As the Bashaw spoke in metaphors I answered him in the

same manner by saying, "That when the Chief Physician prescribed the medicine, I should have no objection to administer the dose, but until then I could say nothing upon the subject. "Take care," answered the Bashaw, "that the medicine does not come too late, and if it does come in time it will not be strong enough to cure." Thus ended this audience, and I should not be so minute in detailing the circumstances was it not necessary in order that Government should be enabled to draw the right conclusion from such materials as I have in my power to furnish them; which, from the above, as well as every other observation which I have been able to make, seems to me to be exactly what I have already communicated to the Department of State in mine of the 18th of October and 1st of November, 1800, already forwarded in quadruplicates with this addition: that the Bashaw having now established a permanent annuity, which has been his grand scheme ever since he usurped the throne of Tripoli, that it places us next upon the list of depredations, and gives some color to his demands; as it is a known maxim in the Barbary States that when one nation makes a concession the others must likewise, or repel the demand by force of arms, which can not so well be done when a number of our fellow citizens are in captivity. Under this conviction I have alarmed our commerce, and if our several consuls in Europe do their duty by next March we shall not have a vessel in the Mediterranean. Sensible that this is the only way to lessen the calamity, for much better is it for us to lose our trade in the Mediterranean for a few months, than to have our vessels captured and citizens enslaved, which would work the same effect besides impeding the operations of Government, and probably would, in some measure, be the means of forcing us to comply with the humiliating and degrading terms which Sweden has already, in consequence of having 131 of her subjects in slavery. The Danes are exactly in the same situation as the United States, except this difference, the Bashaw has demanded from Den-

mark an annuity of $20,000, and from the United States he has made no specific demand; indeed he could not as I repelled the idea of becoming tributary with indignation. But at present his emissaries, and every other person in Tripoli, know that upon these terms alone Sweden, Denmark, America and Holland will be able to maintain their peace with this Regency. Commodore Koeford, who commands a Danish squadron in this sea, in consequence of the truce expiring between Denmark and Tunis, I believe, in February, is expected here very soon; if he acts with energy it will give security to us, I hope, until measures are adopted by Government. But if Denmark concludes upon the same terms that Sweden has, the same week our flag staff comes down, unless the Dey of Algiers interferes with more than common energy, which from the tenor of Mr. O'Brien's communications I have not the least reason to expect; but before any thing can be effected here I imagine it will be necessary to ask permission from the Most Potent Dey of Algiers, in consequence of the stipulation contained in the 12th article of our treaty with this Regency, as is more fully explained in my former communications. I am convinced that this step is necessary notwithstanding the Dey of Algiers has never interfered in favor of the United States since my arrival at Tripoli; but I am persuaded that it is occasioned, in a great measure, by the United States not being properly represented at Algiers, as it is a fact known to every consul in Barbary, that O'Brien is most shamefully connected with the house of Bacri, Bushnach & Co., and in reality is no more than their echo or secretary, as the whole tenor of his correspondence will show and sufficiently prove. There is a want of candor run through all his communications. I have never received an explicit or direct answer to any of the many requisitions and interrogatories which I have made to him since my arrival, and I am persuaded that he has not represented the Bashaw of Tripoli's conduct to the Dey of Algiers in the manner he ought to have done,

or it would have been attended to; for in fact he has treated him with more indignity than he has the United States, and his dignity (the Dey of Algiers) in the present case is so connected with our own that to sacrifice one would be to betray the interest of the other; and the whole of my dispatches to Government having passed through Mr. O'Brien's hands gave him every requisite information; which, in the room of answering, the desired effect has been manifestly to the prejudice of our affairs. Mr. O'Brien has entrusted the Jews with the whole of my communications, who, instead of applying to the Dey for redress, writes every particular to Farfara here, who informs the Bashaw what I have written to Algiers and teaches him the way to counteract all my communications, and to ingratiate himself with the Dey in such a manner that even now should Mr. O'Brien ever make an amicable reference to that Regency, it would have no weight whatever, and the Bashaw of Tripoli has more friends, I believe, in Algiers than we have. The Dey of Algiers ought to have been informed of the Bashaw of Tripoli's views the moment they originated as it is well known that under all Mohammedan governments the influence and prejudices of first impressions are very seldom irradicated. Upon the whole it is evident that Mr. O'Brien has been indefatigable (from what motives I will not pretend to say), in procuring the perfidious pusillanimous Jews an undue influence in the affairs of the United States, which it is the duty of every honest man to repel with indignation, and I hesitate not to assert that so long as the United States, in Barbary, are not represented by honest and intelligent men, capable of transacting their business without having recourse to the agency of those interested and deceitful villains, that nothing but imposition, humiliating degrading concessions and ultimately spoliation war and slavery will ensue or can be expected. On the 3rd inst. the banners of Sweden were displayed upon the Swedish house and saluted as customary, and in the evening the Bashaw

sent Ciddi Mohammed Daguize to inform Mr. Tornquist that he had thought proper to change his mind and would not permit one of the captains to embark until every dollar of the cash that was promised was paid; and that he expected it in four months, otherwise he would capture Swedish vessels as if no agreement had taken place. The Government of the United States will judge from the above the confidence which ought to be placed in the promises of a Prince, who scruples not to break his word and honor in less than twenty-four hours after he has pawned it in the most solemn manner. Mr. Tornquist answered that if his excellency doubted his word and honor, that he would give him security for fifty thousand more than he had promised to pay if the cash did not arrive in the stipulated period. But if his excellency annuled any part of the agreement, that he would immediatly go on board and the whole negotiation should be at an end. The Bashaw returned for answer that Mr. Tornquist's intention was to get the captives away and then to return with more force to do him an injury, but to prevent that he would keep Ciddi Mohammed Daguize a close prisoner in the castle, and if he did not bring the money in four months from his departure that he would sacrifice Daguize, because he had persuaded him to agree to the first terms in order to deceive him, and that he would put the Swedish captives in chains to the hardest labor without distinction of persons. This day Mr. Tornquist thought proper to agree to the Bashaw's imposition for fear of his threats being put into execution. At present he is employed preparing articles of their treaty relative to the salt and stipulated annuity, the result of which you shall be duly informed. The Bashaw has evidently betrayed his real character in the above negotiation, and has given sufficient proof of his cowardice; this will point out the expediency of sending a sufficient force into the Mediterranean with the greatest dispatch, in order to prevent the United States from sharing the same fate as the Danes at Tunis and

Swedes at Tripoli. I have effected everything possible to be done by an individual to preserve the peace of my country upon honorable and equitable terms, and to this instant have not made one concession; but what can remonstrance avail where there is no justice to be obtained but by force of arms, and no friendship exists but what is inspired by hope of gain? I shall endeavor to temporize with the Bashaw and if possible gain time until I receive instructons from Government, which, if not accompanied with force will only prepare the way for exorbitant demands, which the Bashaw expects will be equal to what is given by Sweden; and if we pay this Regency $20,000 per annum this year, you may depend that the next we will be obliged to pay $30,000 and Algiers $40,000 at least, notwithstanding the stipulation for 3,000 tons of salt annually, being merely as a blind in order to prevent the other Regencies from increasing their demands upon Sweden. But I am in doubt if it will answer the desired effect. Allowing that the Bashaw should place no obstacles in the way of the embarkation, which is not very probable, the expenses of shipping would amount to more than salt can be purchased for at Cagliari, Ivyca and many other ports in Europe, as it is past a doubt that if the Bashaw finds that it is of moment to Sweden, and that they regularly send for it, that he will claim the sole privilege of embarkation, and oblige them to pay him so much a ton for sending it on board; which, if once agreed to, must be continued whether the salt is taken away or not; add to this the danger vessels are exposed to, Zoara being an open roadstead, the total want of craft for shipping and want of knowledge in the Moors to manage them, it is not probable that a vessel of 300 tons burden would be loaded in less than two months; I am, therefore, of opinion that if ever the United States consents to the humiliating terms of becoming tributary to Tripoli, that they had better pay a sum of money annually at once; and even if they should agree to take salt to save appearances, that Government ought to endeavor to dispose

of it to some other nation. The Venitians were formerly engaged in this trade and bids the fairest to become purchaser. Before I conclude I am under the necessity of observing that my situation is peculiarly disagreeable. I have not only the peace of my nation to maintain, but the influence and intrigues of the whole sanhedrim of Algiers and Tripoli also, to counteract unsupported by Government, not having received but one letter from the Department of State in two years; neither have I heard from our minister at Lisbon since the 8th of last April; add to this that my instructions are merely answers to some questions I asked before my departure, and are couched in such terms as will not authorize my taking one decisive measure, unless approved by a man who has not taken one step to enforce our treaty by that Regency, since my arrival at Tripoli, (this two years past,) has done nothing but write nonsense dictated by the perfiduous Jews at Algiers. The whole of his communications being a complicated chaos of misrepresentation, ignorance and duplicity mixed together with rocks, shoals, anchors, cables, masts, rigging, and a thousand other absurdities which would puzzle Lawyer Lewis, or any one else, to understand. The only article in which he has been consistent is in demonstrating a desire of throwing the whole of our affairs, both at Tunis and Tripoli, as they are at Algiers, and in writing unintelligible metaphors no more to the purpose than the proverbs of the inimitable Cervantes.

I request you, sir, to take my situation into serious consideration, and to represent our affairs with this Regency to the President and Government in such a manner that more attention may be paid to them than has been heretofore, that the existing abuses may be reformed as soon as circumstnces will admit; or that otherwise, the President will please to appoint some person more adequate to the task imposed upon me than I am, for I find that I can not, under existing circumstances, remain long here, unless I should be base enough to become the agent of the Bashaw of Tripoli and

his friends in Algiers, and thereby betray the honor and interest of my country, and act in a manner inconsistent with the honor annexed to my character as the representative of a free, independent and magnanimous nation; and unless very great alterations, indeed, are made in our arrangements, as it is impossible to serve both God and mammon.

On the 26th of December citizen Billon ratified the truce concluded in November between the French Republic and this Regency. The terms differ from the terms obtained at Algiers and Tunis but very little. The Bashaw is very much afraid of the French in consequence of the eastern provinces of his Regency (Bengasse and Dema) being very much affected, and he is apprehensive that they would join the French of Alexandria should they contemplate the conquest of this Regency. If our treaty with the French is forwarded on the basis of our treaty of 1778, they putting in execution the 8th article would be of great service to our interest; for so long as the French holds Alexandria it is to the interest of the Bashaw of Tripoli to make every reasonable concession to that Republic, otherwise his eastern provinces are irrecoverably lost to him and his successors. Government will determine upon the propriety of the measure. The banners of the Batavian Republic are not permitted to fly, nor will they until their affairs are settled here. The Bashaw has not declared war against them, because he knows they have no ships in the Mediterranean. The French flag will be hoisted on the arrival of a French agent, and it is expected that France will interfere in the arrangement of the affairs of her ally, if not they will be obliged to comply with the same terms Sweden has, and America and Denmark must, or repel the demand by force of arms. Some time last month I received an extract of a letter to you from Mr. O'Brien, dated July 29th, 1800, wherein you request to be informed of the state of our accounts with this Regency and of the Bashaw's demands. His demands he has refused to inform me before I receive

orders to negotiate with him, as I have already informed you in mine of the 18th of October last. The whole expenses that I have been at to maintain our peace since April, 1799, to the 1st of January, 1801, amounts to $1,678.90, including some small expenses on my arrival; five years' rent for the consular house from May, 1799, to May, 1804; $200 given to the Bashaw for Marad Rais, and $200 given lately for intelligence; two years' salary to the drogoman; expenses at the circumcision of the Bashaw's son, Moorish festivals, and every other expense, which shall be particularly explained when I forward my accounts which I have not time to do at present. For the disbursements made during the administration of Mr. O'Brien, Ingraham, Farfara, Bacri, etc., I refer you to those gentlemen for information, as I find them so involved in mystery and shrouded in darkness—especially those made by Ingraham—that it is beyond our capacity to develope them. I have been informed that he is an officer in the United States. If he should come upon this station during my administration I shall certainly inquire in what part of the consular house he has made the repairs, for the sum he has charged the United States is sufficient to build a better house than the one I live in; likewise why he has charged the United States 400 mahboobs for three Turkish festivals which has only cost me $40. I shall communicate every intelligence as opportunity offers, which from here are not very frequent. I am with sentiments of very great respect, sir,

Your most humble servant,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

The original, of which this is a duplicate, was inclosed by his Danish Majesty's consul general here to their agent at Malta, to be forwarded to Europe and from thence to America by the first conveyance. This goes to Mr. Eaton at Tunis.

TRIPOLI, Jan. 7, 1801.

My Dear Sir:—Inclosed is all the information I have as yet been able to procure. It is highly probable that the Bashaw of Tripoli has written the base falsehood in question, but it is not uncharitable, after the usage I have received, to suspect I have other enemies in another quarter. I have said and done everything to stimulate our consul general to honorable pursuits and wait the results with patience and fortitude. Please to register Mr. McDonogh's note in answer to my letter, and any thing else you may think worthy of notice, in your office, and believe me to be with respectful esteem,

Your friend and fellow citizen,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

To William Eaton, Tunis.

Press a copy of my circular of the 3rd of January and forward the original, open, to any of our consuls in Spain. There are conveyances from them to Gibraltar, I am informed, notwithstanding the war.

TRIPOLI, Jan. 7, 1801.

Consul O'Brien, Algiers.

Sir:—Your letter of the 4th ultimo came to hand yesterday. Your conduct relative to the villainous falsehood was such as becomes the dignity, which ought to be ever annexed to the character of the representative of a free and independent nation; you could not do otherwise without risking your reputation and incurring the suspicion of having acted with sinister views—and heaven forbid that there should be a Judas amongst us—while I thank you most sincerely for having discharged the duties of your office to the honor of yourself and country—and my personal advantage—I can

not help observing that if the Bashaw of Tripoli will recede from his demand in consequence of my removal here I am a willing sacrifice; but to be ordered away by a Dey of Algiers seems to be so very extraordinary a maneuver that I can not help repeating what I have already, that the United States seems to be much more dependent upon Algiers than the Bashaw of Tripoli is; but it is likewise attended with this good consequence, that it has proposed the way for your presenting my protest and reference. My situation is a very singular one. The Bashaw of Tripoli wants to get me away, because I will not sacrifice the interests of my country, but keep him strictly to the letter of our treaty with this Regency. The Dey of Algiers wants to get me away because I maintain his dignity, it being so connected with our own that to sacrifice one would be to betray the interests of the other. I suspend my further opinion until I hear from you again. I reiterate the advice which I sent you in mine of the 22nd of November last as being the best way to settle this affair, but to imagine anything but force will keep the Bashaw quiet as a mere farce; it may gain the United States some time but no security. I have nothing further to communicate to Government as the Bashaw's continual threats are only a repetition of what I have already informed the Secretary of State. I can not substantiate any thing against the parties concerned, that Mr. McDonogh has received letters from Mr. and Mrs. Ingraham is a fact that he does no deny, and Mr. Nisson, the Danish consul, informed me that Siddi Mahommed Daguize informed him that McDonogh tried all in his power to persuade the Bashaw to condemn the brig Catherine; but I have no further proof. I am, sir, in anxious expectation to hear the result of my protest and reference, and am your most

Obedient servant,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

TRIPOLI, Jan. 7th, 1801.

To Chas. Tulin, Esq., Tunis.

Dear Sir:—Your obliging letter of the 22d ultimo arrived yesterday, and the letters were immediately delivered, by me, to their respective addresses. Happy should I be if in any future occasion I can render you either national or personal service which I hope you will command wthout reserve.

Mrs. Cathcart joins in my wishes for Mrs. Tulin and the dear babe's recovery, and says she will soon write again to her dear friend. I am, at present, very busy writing to send by the frigate whch sails in a few days for Leghorn, which I plead as an excuse for my abruptness, with which I subscribe myself, dear sir,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

TRIPOLI, Jan. 7, 1801.

Sir:—Your letter of this day's date I have perused and am not a little surprised at its contents; however, I give it now in writing what I said yesterday, that during both the interviews you had with Capt. Scanichie nothing passed but the general conversation between strangers. If you should wish to have any farther information I must refer you solely to Capt. Scanichie, conscious that he will justify his conduct and give you ample satisfaction. I am, sir,

Your obedient servant,

B. McDONOGH.

Mr. O'Brien will first present this to the Dey of Algiers in order to undeceive him; he will then please to forward it to Mr. Smith at Lisbon, as it seems that McDonogh thinks I allude to Capt. Scanichie in my note, and I think it not prudent to give him any explanation whatever. But Capt. Scanichie ought to be informed who is really meant, if McDonogh writes to him on the subject.

Bryan McDonogh, Esq., Her Most Faithful Majesty's Consul at Tripoli.

Sir:—In a packet, which I received yesterday I have been informed of a piece of unprecedent villainy, the author of which it is incumbent upon me to endeavor to discover, as the honor and interest of my country is concerned,—for that reason I demanded you, in the presence of his Swedish Majesty's ambassador, Mr. Tornquist, to inform me what conversation had passed between me and Capt. Scanichie, of the Vasco de Gamma during the time of the visit of etiquette and the return of the same, which were the only times that I was in his company during his stay in this city and you were both times present. Your answer was that you had no conversation but what was of a general nature. As there were a number of officers present I did not stay above ten minutes at the English house, and you did not stay above five minutes at ours, and that on the day of Capt. Scanichie's departure it could not be otherwise. I request you, sir, to send me a certificate of the above under the seal of your office, in order that I may forward it to where it will be most likely to be of service to the parties concerned. I am sir,

Your very obedient servant,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

Chancery of the United States of America at Tripoli, in Barbary, Jan 7, 1801.

Tripoli, Jan. 8, 1801.

To Mr. Appleton, Leghorn.

Sir:—Your esteemed favor of the 30th of Aug. I received by the Thetis frigate from Tunis on the 24th ultimo, with the inclosure and gazette, which I have forwarded to my friend Eaton, and thank you for having taken the trouble to forward them to me. I wrote to you by the brig Catharine

of New York, which was brought in here by a Tripoline cruiser, and which I got clear with a great deal of trouble. She sailed, bound to Leghorn, on the 22nd of October and had on board dispatches for Government of much importance, and a letter containing my first exchange for $600, payable to Mr. DeAndree; the bill was drawn by Leon Farfara upon his brother Jacob Farfara of Leghorn, by me, and as I have not heard of the arrival of said vessel I am a little uneasy, and would thank you to inform me if you have heard any thing of her, as Capt. Carpenter had orders from me to deliver said letters into your hands. I also wrote you on the 27th of November via Trieste, inclosed to Mr. Wagner our consul there, but he has not acknowledged the receipt. The letter contained my circular—the inclosed is a copypress impression. I request you to lose no opportunity to alarm our commerce, and charge me with any expense that you think may be necessary, as you will see the impossibility of my arranging this affair before I receive instructions from Government. I am very much hurried, at present, as this instant there is an opportunity for Tunis and Algiers which I must embrace. I am, sir, with perfect esteem.

Your very obedient servant,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

TRIPOLI, Jan. 9, 1801.

Hon. William Smith, Lisbon.

Dear Sir:—By my letters and the dispatches which I have forwarded through your office to the Department of State, you have been informed of the state of our affairs, and I am in anxious expectation for your answers to my numerous communications. I not having had the honor of a line from you since yours of the 8th of April, which I received on the

14th of September. On the 26th of December citizen Billion concluded or ratified the truce already concluded, the terms of which differs very little from the truce concluded by the French Republic at Algiers and Tunis; the national flag has not yet been displayed, but is to be hoisted on the arrival of a consul. On the 2nd instant, Commodore Tornquist concluded a peace between his Majesty of Sweden and this Regency, upon the following terms, viz: For peace and ransom of 131 captives, $240,000; contingent expenses, about $10,000.

Com. Tornquist has engaged that the kingdom of Sweden shall pay the Regency of Tripoli the sum of $20,000, in consequence of having permission to load 15 sail of vessels of 200 tons of burden each, at Suarez with salt. Thus has the Bashaw established his grand point—that is a permanent annuity; and those are the terms, or similar ones, which he demanded from the United States of America, Danes and Batavians. I therefore request you, sir, to give orders to our consuls to alarm our merchants and seamen, as you will naturally see the impossibility of my making any such stipulations. If the Dey does not interfere in this affair, I see no alternative but war. I have no answers from Government to any of my communications except my dispatches forwarded from here in April, 1799. Inclosed is my last circular; I have no time to copy it at present, as Com. Tornquist sails in an hour, bound for Leghorn, to bring the stipulated cash. The Swedish captives remain as hostages until the money is paid. I will be more particular in my next. I request you, sir, to give me your opinion and advice relative to the best manner of conducting our affairs in the present crisis, and believe me to be with sentiments of the greatest respect, your most

Humble and obedient servant,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

TRIPOLI, Jan. 11, 1801.

My Dear Sir:—I answered your communications a few days ago by a godansino; he has a bill upon you for seven hundred mahboobs, which I pray you to accept and pay. I shall draw upon Mr. O'Brien the ballance of my account up to the 1st of Jan., 1801.

Commodore Tornquist sailed this morning at daylight in order to bring the cash for the redemption and peace. The poor captives remain in slavery until the cash arrives, which the Commodore has promised to bring in four months from the day of his departure. Thus has the Bashaw established a permanent annuity, which has been his great aim ever since he usurped the throne of Tripoli, and these are the terms which he has declared (but not officially but by insinuations and hints from his emissaries) that he will exact from Denmark, the United States of America and the Batavian Republic, whose flag has not been permitted to fly since last May; until that period the Stadholderian banners were displayed, but on the Batavian charge-des-affairs requesting to be permitted to hoist the Republican flag, he has peremptorily denied and ordered to hoist no flag whatever until the Republic of Batavia sent a person to settle their affairs here, under pain of being sent immediately away. You, no doubt, have kept a copy of my letter of the 1st of November, 1800, to the Secretary of State which will inform you exactly of the Bashaw's intentions, which are now published, and the Swedes have made the first concession. I could never have imagined it possible, as you will see by my letter to Mr. O'Brien of the 31st of December, wherein the Commodore promised a great deal but did very little; but I assure you it was not his fault but the fault of his instructions, as I have every reason to believe he had orders to conclude with this Regency in a manner to insure the permanency of the contract, let the terms be what they would; thus the contract for the salt, which is merely a blind for the other Regencies not to increase their demands

upon Sweden; for supposing the Bashaw would throw no obstacles in the way, the embarkation of the salt alone would cost more than it would be purchased for at Ivyca or Cagliari, besides being exposed to be driven on shore on a wild, barren coast, as Suarez is only an open roadstead. It is by no means impossible that the son of Aly Bashaw has written to the Dey of Algiers relative to what is contained in Mr. O'Brien's letter to us, and I am glad of it, as it convinces me that the Bashaw pays some respect to the Dey of Algiers notwithstanding his protestations to the contrary; and the Dey of Algiers has given orders to the Bashaw of Tripoli to order me out of the country is sufficient evidence that the Dey has never been acquainted with the Bashaw's conduct, communicated by me to Mr. O'Brien in my numerous letters since last May, for had the Dey and grandees been informed of his annulling the most essential parts of our treaty in case of the Dey's mediation and guaranty, I am of opinion that it is not probable that he would wish me to be sent away; maintaining his dignity—for it is really so connected with our own that to sacrifice one would be to betray the interests of the others; and I am convinced that nothing else would have kept him so long quiet. Upon the whole, Mr. O'Brien's contradicting the Bashaw's letter seems to be the first communication that has been made by him to the Dey relative to our affairs with this Regency, and will give energy to my protest and reference which I hope, if well conducted, will have the desired effect; that is, it will gain us some time but no security—for you may depend the Bashaw of Tripoli will try every means to carry his point of establishing an annuity if not expelled by force of arms, and to do that we must first beg permission of the most "Potent Dey of Algiers." Oh! heart-breaking humiliating consideration!

If by the Dey's influence we carry our point my situation will not be very eligible, but I dispise the Bashaw's resentment equal to the insinuations of the Jews, their colleagues

and abettors; if I must be made a sacrifice let it be done in such a manner as will become the dignity of an American citizen and to be of service to our country; but for the representative of a free and independent nation, to be placed and replaced at the option of a set of scoundrels is detestable, and an indignity that I think the Government of the United States will never put up with, if they do they deserve to have none in their service. At all events I shall and have taken all opportunities to alarm our commerce, and do not know the moment I may see our fellow citizens brought into captivity, and I pray you to do the same. I expect to have a long letter of advice and animadversions from you soon, and am with sincerity your most cordial,

Friend,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

TRIPOLI IN BARBARY, Jan. 22, 1800.

William Eaton, Esq., Tunis.

Dear Sir:—I received yours of the 29th ultimo on the 18th inst. The communications contained therein I knew and foresaw when I was in Philadelphia, as will appear in my letter to you of the 21st of February, 1798, and to Mr. Pickering of the 1st of May, 1798, wherein I positively informed him that Bacri was consul general of the United States at Algiers; but I had no idea that this presumption would have led them to interfere with our affairs at Tunis and Tripoli, until I arrived at Algiers, where you will see by perusing my objections and answers, dated February 21st, 1799, that I insisted that Bacri should be considered in no other capacity than the banker of the United States. This was the reason that O'Brien never communicated one word of the arrangement which has taken place relative to Tunis, nor did I know a word about it until you politely handed me a copy after we left Algiers; because, I having signified that

all communications on subjects of importance should be made to me in writing, and he knew thereby I would be enabled to oppose their interests more effectually than by word of mouth, besides he knew he would be discovering his ignorance; and by answering the many objections I should have to his system of dependence on the sanhedrim, he would be exposing his views of the confederacy. This, no doubt, has been explained to the acting committee in such a manner as has procured me the honor of their implacable hatred, and they, and their abettor, have in return acquired my most sovereign contempt. It is true that Ingraham and his wife corresponds with McDonogh, but I can hardly believe that either one or the other should be such fools as to suppose any government under the sun would appoint Ingraham to represent them. I rather think the scheme is to make use of him as a screen to cover the real authors of this piece of iniquity, and that a correspondence has commenced between them and somebody else, but as it is only a conjecture founded on probability I do not assert it as fact, but am led to believe the conjecture rather more than chimera by the following intelligence. "Mr. Nisson, the Danish consul informed me, a few days ago, that Cidi Mohammed Daguize had requested him to inform me that Marad Rais, the English Portuguese Doctor and Consul McDonogh had drawn up a certificate before drunken Lucas, that on the 13th of October, 1799, I had spoke some thing disrespectful of the Bashaw of Tripoli, on board the Corso brig, Capt. Rickerts, and that the Bashaw intended to send it to Algiers; that he hoped I would make use of this intelligence in a private manner so as not to bring him into trouble; that respect to truth had induced him to give me this information, and that he hoped I would not make him suffer for his friendship. The thing speaks for itself; had it been true we should have heard something of it before fifteen months had expired. I shall take no notice of it but will procure a certificate to prove its falsehood. As this took place just

after the arrival of the courier with yours of the 23rd of December, and I know Farfara received letters from Algiers —may I not suppose that McDonogh has likewise—otherwise why this maneuver at this instant? Especially, as Mr. O'Brien wrote to him on the 1st of June, 1799, to my prejudice, saying among other things "Mr. Cathcart had his motives for what he done as I have told you long ago." I have evaded every cause of dispute notwithstanding the treatment I have received from that ungrateful man; he imagines he may go on in his iniquity, but he ultimately will be discovered as Skjoldebrand, who I am informed, has been superceded in consequence of his speculations with the Jews to the prejudice of his country. My last dispatches to Government I have not time to copy at present, but will send them by the next opportunity. My letters to Algiers I will send open for your perusal, and you will please to open all letters from Mr. O'Brien to me and forward such abstracts of our correspondence as you will imagine will be of any use for Government to know. Inclosed is a letter to Mr. O'Brien, please to seal and forward it. I am cordially your

Friend and fellow exile,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

TRIPOLI, Jan. 22, 1801.

Richard O'Brien, Esq., Algiers.

Sir:—Yours of the 15th and one to Mr. Eaton of the 15th ultimo came to hand on the 18th inst. I hope by this you have received my protest communications and circular letter since. I have informed you of the Swedish peace, forwarded my circular of the 3rd of January, and as I have done my duty I have nothing to do only to wait your answers, which I have expected ere now. The villainous conspiracy which has been forming against the interests of the United States at Tripoli, and elsewhere, is not the work

of a moment; it has been in contemplation for some time. I could have evaded it, had I thought proper, at the small expense of betraying the trust reposed in me by Government, and expending $40,000 or $50,000 of the public money, but as I prefer the good opinion of the President and Government of the United States to that of the Bashaw of Tripoli, his colleagues of sychophants and abettors, I answers the insinuation in the following lines from Horace—

"The man resolved and steady to his trust,
Inflexible to ill and obstinately just,
May the rude rabbles insolence despise
Their senseless clamors and tumultuous cries;
Not the rough whirlwind that deforms
Adrid's black Gulf and sexes it with storms,
The stubborn nature of his soul can move,
That flings the thunder from the sky,
And gives it rage to roar and strength to fly;
Should the whole frame of Nature break
In ruin and confusion hurled,
He uncovered would hear the mighty craik,
And stand secure amidst a falling world."

The last infamous falsehood I have forwarded documents to contradict. Had the Dey of Algiers been informed of the Bashaw's demands and with the whole contempt he has treated his communications and guaranty, he would never have believed it, as he would have been acquainted with his views; and I sent the Bashaw's letter to the President of the United States, and copies of all my dispatches, open, to you, in order that you might present them to the Dey of Algiers in time to counteract the Bashaw's views; but it seems, by your letter of the 4th of December, that on that day the first communication was made in consequence of the above falsehood. Pray, for how much less than $3,000 did the Bashaw expect to get such a cruiser? The falsehood is evident and needs no elucidation. I wonder the inventors or propagators had not more penetration. I shall not dictate to you, sir,

but I will inform you how I would have acted had I been in your place. When the Bashâw informed you he had received the letter from the son of Aly, I would have pointed out the absurdity of such a report, and to convince him it was beneath the dignity of the American consul at Tripoli to interfere in any such affair, I would have paid the $3,000 in order to indemnify the Bashaw of Tripoli for the whole cost of the schooner; I would then have assigned my reason to Government for so doing and sent you a copy of them, and if you could not prove the falsity of the report that you would become answerable for the sum expended; but for the representative of a nation to be placed and replaced by any other but by the Government under which he acts is detestable; the very idea is so offensive to my nostrils that I can not describe the indignation I feel at its authors. But as for me as an individual they have done me a very great favor, for the enmity of scoundrels is one proof of my having acted with integrity; and for their wishing to remove me they might have saved themselves the trouble, for I have resigned some time ago, for under existing circumstances no consideration under heaven would make me continue here; but as I am not in the habit of deserting my post in time of danger—as Ingraham did—I will not only remain here until the pleasure of the President is known, but likewise until my conduct is examined into upon the spot, if I am permitted, and if not, and Government pleases to entrust me with means of redress, I will suffer to be impaled alive if I don't give a good account of myself. I only hope that whatever person may be appointed in my stead may act with the same patriotic zeal, and that his exertions may be attended with the same success that mine have been since my arrival in this land of deception, where truth, honor and justice are only esteemed useful as they serve to promote the interest of the individual from a persuasion that truth has, in its own nature, no advantage over falsehood, and that the value of both one and the other is to be determined

by the convenience resulting from them. Had the method above mentioned been taken, it would have effectually counteracted the Bashaw's plan; it would have combatted with his own weapons in such a manner that he would be obliged to be silent, as every one knows; it would prove to him that the Dey would interfere in our affairs, if he proceeded to extremeties, as he has redressed an imaginary ill of his first and without doubt would keep him quiet for some time; in short, it would have gained us time for Government to have taken such measures as, they in their judgment, may think proper to adopt; but we will never be secure here until we are established as the British and French are, by force of arms, or become tributary like the Danes and Swedes—Government has only to determine which they will prefer. Commodore Koeford is expected here soon to settle the affairs of Denmark; if he agrees to the same terms the Swedes have our flag staff comes down that same week, if the Dey of Algiers does not interfere with more than extraordinary energy. I hope you have presented my protest before the arrival of the Tripoline chaoux, as you know in Algiers what great weight and influence first impressions have; at all events I request you by all that is sacred, by that *amor patria* which every American ought to feel, to be candid, explicit and decisive in your communications, and let me know on what foundation our security rests, and whether the Dey will enforce the guaranty of our treaty or not. At last, when there shall be no alternative, I will buy to gain time, which at present can not be effected for less than $20,000 per annum, what the Swedes pay. I am, sir, with all due respect,

Your very obedient servant,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

TRIPOLI, Feb. 5, 1801.

Richard O'Brien, Consul for United States of America, Algiers.

Sir:—The uncommon concessions made by Sweden has established the Bashaw more firmly than before in the resolution to make all nations tributary that do not repel the demands by force of arms. I have a certificate from the Batavian who is likewise the French charge-des-affairs, wherein the Bashaw declares that he will not permit the flag of the Republic to be displayed unless Holland first promises to pay into the Regency of Tripoli equal to what they pay, or will pay, at the conclusion of a general peace to the Regencies of Algiers and Tunis. He has not declared war against that nation because he knows they have no ships at sea.

Commodore Koeford is expected here soon to settle the Danish affairs; if he acts as the Swedes have done, war will probably be the consequence. You are, I hope, convinced that the demands or menace from this great monarchy upon our country was not occasioned by my causing due respect to be paid to the memory of the greatest hero the world ever produced. I again confirm the contents of my letter to you of the 22nd of November, 1800, as the best manner for you to act; it will, in all probability, gain us time for Government to take necessary measures to repel the demand or to comply with the degrading terms. Another consideration, which ought to have some weight, is that probably Tunis and Algiers will increase their demands in proportion to what is given to Tripoli; this may be the means of Sweden and Denmark refusing to continue the annuity after the Swedes get their people away, which, though a mere conjecture, seems founded on the probability a general peace may take place to curb the insolence of this aspiring Bashaw. Many circumstances may intervene which we are unacquainted with; the face of affairs which are continually fluctuating in Barbary may change their aspect, and every con-

sideration points out the necessity of gaining time and temporizing with this Regency, until the determination of Government is known. To the amount of $15,000 or $20,000, I will take the responsibility upon myself if you adopt the plan which I have recommended; if you do not $50,000 will not answer the same effect. The Bashaw, elated with his success against Sweden, no more talks of thousands; millions, at present, is the order of the day, as you will see by the demand upon Sweden, which I forwarded you a copy of, and which I requested you to forward with every letter and communication which I have made to you since my arrival in Barbary to the Department of State. Consider, sir, that at the expiration of the period, say March or April, that our commerce will be suspended in this sea, which will be a greater loss to the revenues of our country than the loss of the above mentioned sum would be. I should not hesitate a moment to pay the sum myself, without orders, if it would answer the desired effect; but it will not, it would be looked upon as an act of the consul's dictated by timidity and not by his Government. But by its being sent as a friendly act of the Dey of Algiers our great and "Potent Mediator," it would have great weight; for notwithstanding the Bashaw repels the claims of superiority made by Algiers with indignation, his sending his lie to Algiers proves he pays some respect to that Regency. And the situation of the affairs of this Regency with the Ottoman Empire dictates to the Bashaw the policy of remaining on good terms with Algiers and Tunis, as I have already explained to you in mine of the 14th of October last. Any falsehood he may frame to injure me, as an individual, (provided my country is not concerned) I dispise, and am convinced that he, and his abettors, are only entailing infamy upon themselves. I am the consul of the United States and not the vikil of Tripoli. He, or they, may succeed. I shall have no great difficulty to justify my conduct at the seat of

Government, and I most sincerely wish them success as a private person, but as the agent of a great and independent nation, to revenge the indignity, I would dedicate the remainder of my life with pleasure. I am, sir, with due respect,

Your most humble servant,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

I am waiting with impatience to know the result of my reference. Patience, fortitude and energy, effects a great deal.

TRIPOLI, Feb. 6, 1801.

Richard O'Brien, Esq., Algiers.

Sir:—Yesterday I drew a bill of exchange upon you for $398.25, payable upon sight to Mr. Leon Farfara or his order. This day I have drawn upon you for $500, payable thirty days after sight to the same person or order; both sums when paid making the sum of $898.25. You will please to place to the account of, sir,

Your humble servant,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

In anxious expectation to hear from you of my protest and reference.

TRIPOLI, Feb. 5, 1801.

Hon. John Marshall, Secretary of State.

Sir:—Mr. Tornquist remained here until the 10th of January without being able to conclude one article of the treaty between Sweden and this Regency, the Bashaw having refused to enter into any negotiation before the cash for peace was paid; I am therefore prevented from giving

you any farther intelligence on their affairs until his return. I have been informed that at Suarez there is abundance of good salt, but for want of care that it is mixed with a quantity of sand which makes it less valuable; that at twelve miles distance from the shore there is only three fathoms water, and that all vessels bound there are obliged to come to Tripoli first to take a pilot, which subjects them to great delay and considerable imposition. Our affairs remain in the same state as when I wrote to you last, and I imagine the Bashaw will take no measures until the arrival of his ambassador from Algiers. Commodore Koeford is expected daily; when he arrives, if I am here, I will inform you of the result of his negotiation and what effect it will have upon our affairs. I am with the greatest respect, sir,

Your humble servant,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

TRIPOLI, Feb. 5th, 1801.

William Eaton, Esq., Tunis.

Dear Sir:—By the inclosed dispatches from the Department of State and Algiers, which you will please forward by direct conveyance, you will be informed of the present state of our affairs. Every day I receive messages couched in terms of friendship, receive what they call wholesome advice, and am then menaced and worried into a fever—but it won't do. I have held my ground so far, but I really believe I will not be able to maintain my position much longer, deprived, as I am, of both "iron and gold," destitute of instructions from Government and exposed to the censures of an ass, who through malice, ignorance or timidity, has not given me a plain answer to any of my requisitions in Barbary; but on the contrary has been indefatigable in endeavoring to find fault with what he has not understood, and exhibiting charges against me which do not exist.

This, sir, is my situation—it is not the most eligible. Our citizens must not be enslaved. Under this conviction I will endeavor to purchase time, as I should be utterly reprehensible for making unnecessary concessions; so should I be culpable should timidity hinder me from preventing the destruction of our commerce, which at present begins to flourish in this region of thieves. I am dear sir with assurances of esteem,

Your friend and servant,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

Send me some news and forward my letter to Mr. Marshall, to some part of Europe.

A Monsieur l' Ambassadeur de S. M. Suedois actuellement à Tripoli de Barbarie.

TRIPOLI le 1 Janvier 1801.

Monsieur:—Vouz verrez S. V. P. ci après la note des demands, que je vous ai fait d'ordre de S. E. le Pacha Saroir.

Pour les lettres de change que Monsieur Coster lui avait donné Livourne que ont étés protesté Piastres d'Espagne - - - - - - - - - 38.833¼

(a.) Idem: pour les battiment Suedois pris par les corses, com il assert par les comptes des Juifs et autres interesses avec chargement - - - - - - - - - 24.000

(b.) Pour annualité dedans et amis - - 12.000

(c.) Valeur de onze battiments qui sont dans la port y compris celui d'Algier - - 170.000

Transpt - - - 245.000

(d.) Pour les Capitaines et mate lots y compris ceux qui sont Algier. Pour un an d'annualité qui demande S. E. en anticipation pour être suivi au même tour - - 20.000

V. S. V. P. Somme total Piastres - 435.000

Cette ci est la demande de qu'il a fait Son Excellence mais puis que vous avez trouvé des difficultés en plusieurs actes de Son Excellence est beaucoup fâché il demand de plus un Miglion de Sequins et sans attendre le retur de la Frigate Nous pouvons vous preparer pour demain avant midi alles voir Son Excellence avec lequel vous vous expliquerez dans la maniere que vous trouverez.

Je reste en vous saluant de toist mon bien

Signé en Arab Lidi

MOHAMMED D'GHIES.

Monsieur:—

V. S. J'attends votre reponse S. V. S. ce soir pour donner part Son Excellence qui en attends.

(*a.*) This vessel was the brig Osteron Graeson Pitter Osland, which was taken by the French of Corsica, for particulars I refer you to my letter of the 30th of December, 1799.

(*b.*) The Swedes, by their agreement dated the 28th of June, 1798, a copy of which I forwarded by the Sophia, promised to pay this Regency annually the sum of $5,000.

(*c.*) This vessel and crew was sent to Algiers by a Triopline cruiser, and was delivered up to the Swedish consul by the Dey. The Bashaw has made this charge on purpose to let the Swedes see what little regard he has for the interference of the Dey of Algiers, notwithstanding the Commodore brought a letter from Algiers, which he was taught to believe contained great things. The money expended at Algiers for said vessel's clearance is a total loss to Sweden.

The frigate had stood to sea in consequence of the wind blowing right on shore. The Bashaw being sensible of the injustice of his demands imagined that the Commodore had sent for more force to cannonade the town, he therefore concluded to oblige him to comply with his demands before their arrival. During the negotiation on the next day the frigate hove in sight. This is sufficient proof that the Ba-

shaw only imposes upon those who are intimidated by him. Had the Swedes sent a squadron I am of opinion the demand would not have originated, and that their affairs settled for $38,333.25, the amount of the bills given by Coster; that the people would have been given up gratis without firing a gun, and that three well directed broadsides upon the town would have obtained the ships which were in port, which he valued at $170,000. The nations which make the greatest concessions are always the most imposed upon. I am with sentiments of very great respect, sir, your very

Humble and obedient servant,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

The above to be forwarded to Hon. John Marshall, Secretary of State, in the Land of Liberty.

Mr. Nisson, His Danish Majesty's Consul General, Tripoli.

Sir:—I have already informed you of the report propagated by Bryan McDonogh relative to Mr. Coster having charged the government of Sweden $15,000 for two boys, which said McDonogh has declared were given up to him by his excellency the Bashaw, gratis; and that he the said McDonogh gave them as a compliment from himself to the King of Sweden. I having received informaton from two Swedish captains, who are captives, I found it imprudent to mention the affair left by his intrigues already conspicuous, he might do an injury to those men already rendered, by their situation, sufficiently miserable. Yesterday evening Mr. Bohrstrom, the Swedish consul general, informed me verbally that said Bryan McDonogh had declared to him, upon his word of honor, that his excellency, the Bashaw of Tripoli, had given the said boys to him gratis as before recited; that he had made them a present to Mr. Coster, and that no charge or demand had been made by the Bashaw, either directly or indirectly, for said boys, but that Mr. Coster had charged the sum of $15,000 in order to defraud the government of Sweden. I knowing the above to be a

most villainous falsehood, forged by Mr. McDonogh in order to asperse the character of Coster in his absence, advised Mr. Bohrstrom to acquaint the Bashaw of the whole affair, and to request his excellency to inform him particularly of his transactions. I further demonstrated to him the absolute necessity of developing this mystery, as his own character as his Swedish Majesty's consul, as well as the character of his excellency, the Bashaw of Tripoli, was accessory to the deception, which every person knows to be impossible. Mr. Bohrstrom, by keeping the matter in the same position it is at present, without coming to farther explanation would be the most accessory to the fraud (if true), at least tacitly consenting to it, and if false (which it certainly is), would be countenancing, and thereby, in some measure, justifying the conduct of a scoundrel who makes no scruple to propagate false reports to the detriment of the character of a Prince of the August family of Caramanly, making the dignity, honor and integrity of his excellency subservent to his own vile purposes, in order to be the means of ruining an honest man who, in this case, is well known to every consul in Tripoli to be perfectly innocent. Regard to truth obliged me to advise Mr. Bohrstrom to take the above measures, and he has promised that he will take the earliest opportunity to inform his excellency, the Bashaw, of the whole affair, and request a perfect explanation, which I hope he will not neglect, as I have long been under the conviction that a person who will so far as not only to receive bribes but likewise to exact them on any occasion, will not scruple to make the most villainous reports subservient to his interest; it is therefore the duty of every honest man to detect such deceptions, for in fact none of our characters are secure from such caluminators, and he may with as much propriety endeavor to sully our reputation as the person in question. Should he have courage enough to attempt it openly like a man, the remedy would be in our own hands; but he, like a pusillanimous puppy, waits

our absence or propagates his falsehoods in such a manner, that prudence and the situation of our national affairs renders it advisable not to chastise his perfidy and arrogance. Thus, his advice to the Bashaw of Tripoli when the American brig Catharine was brought in here, was calculated not only to injure the United States of America, the proprietors of said vessel and cargo, but likewise myself as an individual. Thus his drawing up a certificate about the 8th or 9th of January, 1801, declaring that I had spoken disrespectfully of the Bashaw on board the Corso, British brig of war, when I dined with Capt Ricketts on the 13th of October, 1799, was circulated in order that I might have recourse to his influence, which, thank God, at present is only nominal, and thereby be obliged to sacrifice a sum of money in like manner, as I gave him $800 on my arrival at Tripoli; a greater mark of his perfidy can not be than his making said declaration fifteen months after the affair, acording to his account, took place, when there is not a person in Tripoli that was on board the Corso that day but the party concerned; whereas, had his report been true, said certificate would undoubtedly have been given while the Corso remained here or on her return in January, 1800.

As I am prevented mentioning the affair of the certificate, in consequence of Ciddi Mohammed Daguize and your friendship, in participating to me the transaction, I request you, when at leisure, to furnish me with a certificate of the particulars as you received them from Ciddi Mohammed Daguize, in order that I may forward it to the Government of the United States, who will take such steps as they may judge right. I should not trouble you was I not convinced that you, equally with me, would feel a pleasure in the disgrace of a person whose character you are personally acquainted with, and in consequence of the promise made to Ciddi Mohammed Daguize, which has rendered it improper for me to mention the maneuver to any other person, you can avoid mentioning the person's name, if you think proper,

by the styling him our "mutual friend." I am, with assurances of perfect respect and esteem, sir,

Your most humble servant,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

Chancery of the United States of America at Tripoli in Barbary, Feb. 5, 1801.

James Leander Cathcart, Consul for the United States of America in the Regency of Tripoli, unto his excellency Jusef Bashaw, Supreme Commandant of the Regency in Barbary. Health, Peace and Prosperity:

Your excellency having communicated, verbally, to me your intention of declaring war against the United States, on the 8th and 16th inst., and that immediately you had resolved to take the necessary measures for so doing, if their consul did not give you assurances that the said States would enter into a separate negotiation, and agree to the following demands without soliciting the interference of the Dey of Algiers, whose guaranty of the subsisting treaty between the United States of America and this Regency, your excellency declared to be null and void. And your excellency having authenticated declaration by the most solemn oaths and imprecations, which having since been re-echoed by your commissioner, Ciddi Mohammed Daguize and broker Leon Farfara, gives me reason to believe your excellency is sincere. That your excellency likewise demands the sum of $225,000, as the price of said separate peace, and an annuity of $20,000 to perpetuate the same. Your excellency likewise declared that if the President of the United States was disposed to treat with you without the interference of Algiers, that you would. I having explained to your excellency the impossibility of my countenancing any such demands upon the United States of America, or entering into any discussion, whatever, relative to them, much less agreeing thereto—a repetition at present is unnecessary—

nevertheless, I deem it expedient once more to inform your excellency that the alteration can be made by none but the President of the United States, by and with the consent of the Senate. And that the demands for cash for which your excellency has not been able to assign any reason to justify, as well as the annuity of $20,000 per annum before granted must be authorized by an act of the whole Legislative body of our country; the result, therefore, depends upon them alone and will take much time to determine. That nevertheless to evade, as much as depended upon me, the consequences of a destructive war, the issue of which being to both parties uncertain, I would enter into a negotiation with your excellency to procure time to state your demands to the President of the United States of America, and to receive answers from him, which, from the great distance between our countries and the time an affair of such great importance would take in discussion, eighteen months was absolutely necessary. Your excellency answered that provided I would pay you for that time you would write to the President of the United States, and would wait a sufficient period for his answers to arrive.

After various discussions, on the 16th inst. the following arrangement obtained the consent of both parties, viz: Your excellency did promise to state your demands to the President of the United States of America by letter, and to wait the term of eighteen months from the date thereof for his answer, in consequence of your receiving from the consul of the United States of America the sum of $20,000 in bills upon Algiers, a tischera of $2,000 for cloth purchased from me, but not paid for, and the presents which Hadgi Mahamoud la Sore brought from Algiers, which last arrangement I do agree to fulfill, but no other whatever. I do further declare that on his excellency the Bashaw sending to me his letter to the President of the United States of America, in quadruplicates, and promising to give me a receipt for the articles which I should deliver to him, specifying that

he will make no further demands upon the United States during the limited period of eighteen months, that I will immediately deliver to him the above mentioned bills, tischera and presents. In testimony of the above, I herewith subscribe my name and affix the consular seal of the United States of America.

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

Consul U. S. A. at Tripoli in Barbary.

Done at Tripoli in Barbary, this 19th day of February, in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and one, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the 25th.

TRIPOLI, Feb. 20, 1801.

Messrs. O'Brien and Eaton.

Gentlemen:—I have only time by this courier to give you the following extract from my journal, which you shall have in full by the next conveyance, viz: Saturday, 7th of February, arrived Mahamoud la Sore with Mr. O'Brien's letters in duplicates, the one inclosed to Leon Farfara and the other to Ciddi Mohammed Daguize. It being Saturday the letters were not brought to my house until 9 p. m., and after Ciddi Mohammed Daguize and Farfara had been at the castle; the letters were dated at Algiers, December 31, 1800.

Sunday 8th. Waited upon Ciddi Mohammed Daguize and requested him to inform the Bashaw that I had a present to deliver to his excellency, and would be glad to know when I would be permitted to wait upon him. Ciddi Daguize answered that the Bashaw knew there was a present arrived from Algiers, and that his excellency had ordered him to inform me that he neither would receive me nor the presents; that he was determined to let the whole world see that he respected not the interference of the Dey of Algiers; and that he would declare war against the United States of America in forty days from the date of arrival of the

presents. I made use of every argument to dissuade the Bashaw from putting his menace into execution, knowing that Daguize would report the whole of my conversation with the Bashaw. Daguize answered that he knew the Bashaw had no reason to declare war against us, and that he had informed him several times that in the present state of his affairs that it was not to his interest to displease the Dey of Algiers; that he advised the Bashaw to respect the requests of the Dey from a conviction that it was his master's interest so to do, and not with any intention to benefit the United States, but that he was sorry to find the Bashaw paid but very little respect to his advice, being surrounded by a set of mercenaries who had hardly common sense, and who were continually persuading him to declare war against the United States, and assuring him that the Dey of Algiers would only be angry for a few days; that by capturing the ships and enslaving the citizens of the United States, the Government would be obliged to come, cap in hand, and sue for peace upon the same terms Sweden has; and that America was at too great a distance to send a considerable force into the sea. I combatted these ideas but with little success, and Ciddi Mohammed Daguize informed me that I might depend that the Bashaw would put his scheme into execution, was it only to try the experiment; that the only service he could do me was to procure me an audience the next day, when I could hear from the Bashaw himself his determination. Farfara came to my house and read a letter he had received from Bacri at Algiers, giving him an account of the articles contained in the box of presents, and likewise showed me a false letter he had procured to be written in case the Bashaw should desire to see the letter from Bacri; he seemed much agitated and requested that his name should not be mentioned during the negotiation, and then confirmed what Daguize had told me in the morning; he went to visit Daguize and returned in about an hour, tore the forged letter, and said he had requested

Daguize to inform the Bashaw, if he should ask if Bacri was offended with Farfara because he did not write to him by the Tripoline chaoux, that his letter had come to Daguize who had promised to give the information, and he had taken a great deal of pains to prevent the Bashaw from imagining that he had any correspondence relative to American affairs, good or bad; and requested me again not to mention his name. On the 9th inst. at 3 p. m. I procured an audience which lasted above three hours. The Bashaw broke silence in a blunt manner and asked me what I wanted. I have come to ask permission to present your excellency with a regalo as a token of the friendly intentions of the President of the United States, and to know when you will be at leisure to receive it. "Never, by God, never!" For what reason? "Because it was intended for the Dey of Oran or Constantine; it never can be supposed that the Bashaw of Tripoli has occasion for such trifles. Tripoli is different from what it was some years ago." I observed that probably his excellency did not know what the regalo consisted of. "Yes, I do," said he, "better than you do, and if it was ten times as valuable I would not receive it; you may send it from whence it came, and inform the Dey of Algiers that I have received several firman from the Grand Signore relative to the Ragusans and Imperials, which, you know, I have not in the least regarded, much less will I respect his letters, so that in future he may save himself the trouble soliciting me; he likewise wrote to me relative to the Swedes—you see what effect it had. I now swear, by God, my religion, the head of my son (Ciddi Aly who was sitting by him) and by this right hand, that I never will be at peace with your nation until your President appoints a person to negotiate a treaty with me without the interference of Algiers, or any other nation; that I now declare your treaty no longer binding upon me, and that I will declare war against America immediately, if you do not give me assurances that your President will alter the said treaty to my

liking, and give me $250,000 as the price of the said new treaty; and that your nation will annually pay me the sum of $20,000 to continue the same new peace after it is made." I made use of every argument in my power, which produced no effect whatever; these terms the Bashaw said were the only ones he had to propose, that the alteration in the treaty he insisted on above everything else, and swore he would never enter into any negotiation with an agent of the United States upon any other terms, even was he sure to lose his kingdom and with it his head; with this he drew his hand horizontally across his throat. After three hours litigation he said he would give us time if we would pay him well for it, and demanded $100,000 for six months. At last the result was that he would wait eighteen months if I would give him $80,000 and assurances that the President of the United States would comply with the rest of his unjust demands. I negatived the whole, as you may well suppose, which you will be informed of more particularly by my letter to the Bashaw of the 19th inst., a copy of which is inclosed. The Bashaw then observed what a benefit it would be to me to have his friendship; that he knew I had full power or very great powers; that Bushnac, the favorite Jew of the Dey of Algiers, had informed his chaoux that the Consul Americano at Tripoli did not know how to cultivate the favor of the Bashaw of Tripoli; if he had done as he ought to have done when the Bashaw cleared the brig, he would have made him a present of one hundred quintals of sugar and fifty of coffee, to enable him to keep his feast of ramazan; that the American nation would be no loser thereby, as the underwriters would be obliged to pay for it. I observed that I did not believe Bushnac was so ignorant as to have said any such thing, and was proceeding to give my reasons when he stopped me and called Farfara to know if he was not present when Hadgi Mahamoud la Sore informed him of the above. He answered him in the affirmative, and said if I did not believe him I might ask la Sore

himself, and he would go with me. I declined as unnecessary, and told the Bashaw that if Bushnac had any agency in the affairs of the United States I was unacquainted with it, but if he had given me any orders to justify my conduct to my Government I would have no objection to follow them, and he might have sent by the vessel that brought la Sore here, a quantity of sugar and coffee and charged it to the United States if he had any orders for so doing, as for my part I have none. The Bashaw said he was hungry, that I spoke on a full stomach, that it was magrep. He then empowered Ciddi Mohammed Daguize to negotiate with me, and appointed Mr. Leon Farfara as messenger for both parties, and ordered me to conclude by the feast, as he would take his measures accordingly. On the 10th, Ciddi Mohammed Daguize sent for the treaty by the Bashaw's orders. I sealed the articles separately in order that no alteration might be made in them. He pawned his honor that he would return it again in the same state as when he received it. I said it was immaterial as the original was at Algiers, and another copy was in America. The 11th and 12th nothing of consequence took place, except Ciddi Mohammed seemed to be convinced of the propriety of my arguments and the unreasonableness of the Bashaw's demands. I produced the ratification of our treaty, informed him that it was ratified by and with the advice of the Senate, and that none but the August Assembly who declared it sacred and inviolable had power to annul or alter one syllable of its sense. During the conversation insinuations were made of such a nature, that I will not prostitute my pen even so much as to insert them.

In the evening of the 12th Daguize sent for me and requested to be informed whether I would have any objection to give the Bashaw $40,000 and the regalo which came from Algiers, provided the Bashaw would state his demands to the President of the United States, and promise to wait eighteen months for answers from America. I

answered that I could agree to no such terms; that I only had orders to present the regalo, never supposing the Bashaw had any other demands to make upon the United States, but what were specified in his letter to the President of last May, a token of friendship more substantial than mere compliments. That if the Bashaw had determined to make the foresaid demands upon the United States, that I made no doubt but the Bashaw would conceive the regalo, to which I would add his receipt for cloth purchased from me and not yet paid for, a sufficient recompense for waiting eighteen months for answers from the President. This evening arrived a British brig of war from Malta; she landed two chaouxes from thence, who had been landed there by Capt. Bainbridge of the United States frigate, George Washington, on her passage from Constantinople to Algiers. They are the bearers of two firman from the Grand Signore, the one to order the Bashaw to acknowledge the independence of the Republic of the Seven Islands, and to respect their flag as being under the protection of the Grand Signore, the other to order the Bashaw to declare war against France, and other demands similar to what were made by the Grand Signore upon Algiers, the particulars of which has not yet transpired. The only resolution that the Bashaw has taken, is to write to Tunis for a French agent, who he expects here soon, not to come until he receives a second order. He has likewise chartered a Raggusan vessel to take the chaouxes to the Levant.

Fourteenth I received a letter from Capt. Bainbridge, dated off Malta January 10th, 1801. I informed several of the Bashaw's emissaries of it in order that they might be informed there really are such things in the world as American frigates, which they seem much to doubt. I likewise received a letter from a gentleman in Malta, wherein he informs me that by the arrival of a brig from London he was informed of war having been declared between Great Britain and Russia.

Fifteenth arrived a cruiser from Tunis with a copy of Mr. O'Brien's letter to Mr. Smith of the 23rd of December, and a note to me annexed of the 29th December, 1800. This being the first day of the feast I did not see Daguize until evening. He went over the same ground we had before, and I offered him, in addition to what I had done before, a bill upon Algiers for $10,000 which he rejected, and said if I would give $30,000 that he would go and hear the Bashaw's answer. I answered it was impossible and withdrew.

On the 16th Daguize sent Farfara to inform me that the Bashaw had agreed to take $30,000 for eighteen months time, and that he expected I would give him a positive answer when I waited upon him to compliment him upon occasion of the festival. I waited on Daguize and found means to induce him to value the regalo and tischera for cloth plundered from me at $10,000, ten thousand which I have promised made twenty, so that the difference between the Bashaw's demands and my offer was only $10,000. I therefore assuring Daguize that I was offering a sum that I was by no means authorized to do by my instructions. I offered to divide the difference and give bills on Algiers for $15,000. The report was made to the Bashaw, who said he would give me his answer when he received my complimentary visit at Meridian. I waited on his excellency who received me in full divan, made use of the same arguments, menaces and imprecations, which he had done on the 9th, and ultimately said he would wait one year for the President's answer for the sum I had offered, but swore most terribly that he would not take less than the presents and bills for $20,000 to wait for eighteen months. I therefore thought it expedient to conclude upon the above terms which were accepted by the Bashaw in presence of the whole divan, Ciddi Mohammed Daguize and Mr. Leon Farfara. I promised his excellency to deliver him the bills and presents as soon as he would send me his letters to the President of the United States, which he said he would do

as soon as he had time. Thus ended, as I imagined, our negotiation and my only fear was that my conduct might be censured by Government for having acted without orders; but I confided much to their candor, not doubting but what I had done would ultimately be approved. On the 18th inst., Daguize sent Farfara to call me. I went to his house; he said he was very sorry to inform me that the Bashaw had changed his mind and would not accept the presents and bills, neither would he wait for answers from America upon any consideration, unless I would give him under my hand and seal that the President of the United States would comply with every article of his demands. I made Farfara produce the particulars of my agreement in the Italian language which I had signed, in order that no misunderstanding might take place. Daguize endeavored to persuade me to enter into another negotiation and to annul the former, which I positively refused let what will be the consequence. This day four sail of cruisers sailed, but the Bashaw has declared that they, nor any other of the cruisers, shall not molest any of our vessels until after he has declared war in form against the United States, and you, from the above negotiation, may form an exact opinion of the confidence that ought to be placed in his public declarations. On the 19th inst. every means was used to intimidate me to compliance with the Dey's demands, but to no effect. I presented the letter of which the inclosed is a copy. It has been read by the Bashaw and he sent me for answer that it is true that he had agreed to those terms, but has since changed his mind in consequence of reflections that did not at the instant occur to him. The fact is he intends to capture fellow citizens in order to oblige us to comply with his own terms. On this day the Algerine Rais left Tripoli by land, and I requested the Bashaw to permit me to send a courier; he answered I might write by this opportunity if I thought proper when I commenced this letter:

Gentlemen:—I did not imagine I should have had time to

furnish you with the inclosed detail, which I request you to forward immediately to the Secretary of State. I likewise request you to multiply my circular letters, nine of which goes inclosed with this. Mr. O'Brien will please to explain the dispatch to the Dey of Algiers, and if he puts up with the insult it is his own fault; and if any of our frigates have arrived at Algiers let them protect our merchantmen until you hear from me again. From the best information I have been able to gain, the Bashaw means to put his menace into execution about thirty days from this date; there is no opportunity from here for Europe, I therefore entirely depend upon you to convey information from me to our consuls and agents along the other side of the Mediterranean. I am, gentlemen, with due respect,

Your very humble servant,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

Richard O'Brien, Consul General for the United States of America at Algiers.

CIRCULAR.

To the Agents and Consuls of the United States of America, residing in the different ports of France, Spain and Portugal, Italy, the Barbary States and British Garrisons in the Mediterranean, and to all others whom it doth or may concern.

Gentlemen:—I had the honor to inform you in my circular letter of November, 1800, and Jan. 7th, 1801, of the state of our affairs with this Regency, I have now to add that all hopes of accommodation has subsided; I therefore request you to detain all merchant vessels navigating under the flag of the United States, in port, and by no means to permit any of them to sail unless they are under convoy, as I am convinced that the Bashaw of Tripoli will commence hostilities against tne United States of America in less than

sixty days from the date hereof; and I am persuaded that he has made his demands upon no other reason than to have an unjust excuse for capturing our vessels and enslaving our citizens. His demands being of such a nature that none but the President of the United States by and with the consent of the Senate can agree to, and I having offered the sum of $30,000 merely to state his demands and wait until our answers arrive from the President, which he has refused to accept, is sufficient proof that his intentions are as I have stated them, and dictates the necessity of taking every precaution in order to prevent our vessels falling into his hands. I request you, gentlemen, to make this letter public and to transmit a copy of it to the Department of State. I am with assurances of respect, gentlemen,

Your most humble servant,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

Mr. Nisson, Esq., His Danish Majesty's Consul General, Tripoli.

Sir:—The affairs of the United States of America being in such a state that war has become inevitable, unless his excellency, the Bashaw, recedes from his demands, which are of such a nature that none but the President of the United States of America, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate can arrange, I request to know whether you will have any objection to take the guidance of the affairs of the United States upon you during the absence of a person properly commissioned by the President. I am induced to give you the preference to any person in Tripoli, from your character and knowledge of your language, as well as because the American consul of Tunis rendered your nation the same favor in similar circumstances; any favor you will be able to render the United

States, or her citizens, will be gratefully acknowledged by, sir, your most humble and

Obedient servant,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

Chancery of the United States of America, Tripoli in Barbary, Feb. 21, 1801.

TRIPOLI, Feb. 21st, 1801.

William Eaton, Esq.

Dear Sir:—The inclosed consular letters you will please to forward with all speed. If the Bashaw persists in his demands I will accept your offer and hospitality and leaving my family at Tunis will proceed to Algiers, where I hope the rest of our frigates have arrived. I received a letter, a few days ago, from Bainbridge, commander of the Washington. If these people take any of our vessels—which they may as well do as the Swedes, which they captured having the passports of Sweden on board—I can make no doubt but some of them will pay for it very soon. The Washington was off Malta where she will cruise with some others until our affairs are settled one way or another. I don't give you any intelligence at present, as I expect this packet will be opened by some scoundrel who, if I detect, shall have the contents of a pistol. You may expect to see me in about 40 days or not at all. I am,

Your most humble servant,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

TRIPOLI, 23d Feb., 1801.

Messrs. O'Brien and Eaton.

Gentlemen:—By the inclosed and my dispatches of the 20th inst. you will be informed of the state of our affairs.

The courier has been stopped to this day, and I am informed departs tomorrow, early. This inst. arrived an Imperial brig from Algiers and Tunis by which I received Mr. O'Brien's note of the 2nd of February. I am happy to hear the news contained therein for some reasons, but sorry for others. I have been informed, but not officially, that the Bashaw of Tripoli has written to Algiers, and does not intend to declare war against the United States until he receives news from Algiers, before which I hope our vessels will be under convoy. The Bashaw says he is a greater man than the Dey of Algiers; that if his father was not respected as much as the Dey he will be; that the Swedes promised to pay $250,000, and $20,000 annually, by his declaring war against them, which they never would have done if he had not taken 14 of their ships and enslaved 130 of their citizens; that he intends to try whether America will not do the same. That he only can deliver them up if demanded by a superior force, and that then he would be no loser—at the same time he is endeavoring to cultivate the friendship of the Dey of Algiers, that he may not interfere in our affairs, or claim the property of our citizens, who have been captured by his pirates. This points out the necessity of Mr. O'Brien presenting all my communications, since May last, to the Dey of Algiers, and explaining to him the consequences of permitting the Bashaw of Tripoli to treat him with so much indignity. The Dey, in fact, is serving himself more than us. The presents, with $20,000, are refused for eighteen months time. Do you want a greater proof, gentlemen, that war is inevitable? If Government sends two of our frigates to co-operate with me I will maintain our peace upon the same terms the British do theirs. If they make the same concession the Swedes have, let them send some interested hireling here, who will study to make his own fortune at the expense and honor of his country, for here I remain not. I consider I am establishing a precedent; on my conduct, in a great measure, depends the terms on which our peace

will be established with this Regency for ages. Give me force and I will maintain our peace upon honorable terms. If we make one concession we establish ourselves on the same humiliating terms the Swedes have, and the Danes must, or act with energy. My giving $30,000 can never be looked upon as a national act, as it is extorted from the consul in order to procure time to advise his fellow citizens of their danger, and for Government to provide for future events. If the Bashaw should accept the sum, do you think he will wait eighteen months as he has promised, when he annuls agreements made in full divan in twenty-four hours after he concludes? No, gentlemen, it is in vain to expect it; Government must immediately give orders to their consuls to pay him what he asks, or send them force of arms and orders to make no concessions. This step would be attended with considerable expense, but if we can not maintain two or three frigates, let us cease to be a nation. Every nation that has acted with energy has been respected. Witness the British at Algiers—and all nations that have made concessions have been most villainously imposed upon, and will continue to be. Witness the Danes at Tunis, and Swedes at Tripoli. I request you, gentlemen, by all that is sacred, to take every measure in your power to alarm our commerce and forward my circulars by every conveyance. From here I am deprived of every opportunity, but as this affair has long been in agitation, my circulars of November and January by the Swedish frigate to Leghorn and Lisbon, will, I hope, be the means of leaving none of our vessels in the Mediterranean, but those that are able to defend themselves. If the General Green, or any of Commodore Truxton's squadron has arrived they can not be better employed than in examining all American vessels lest they should be in possession of these warriors; and if a war commences no pains must be spared to get our greatest enemy into our power, and to effectually prevent his ever returning here again. I request Mr. Eaton to send a copy of this letter to

the Department of State via Europe, with his ideas upon the subject, and what effect the concessions of Sweden has upon the impending negotiation with Denmark at Tunis, and whether our paying $20,000 per annum at Tripoli, would be the means of Tunis making a similar demand, increased in proportion to the superiority that Tunis maintains in dignity to this Regency among the nations of the earth. If the Dey of Algiers should again wish to change his American consul at Tripoli, I commend to his notice the celebrated Bryan McDonogh, as a person most likely to betray the trust reposed in him and to bring grist to the Bashaw's mill, provided he may be allowed a little of the bran. He is dispised by every consul in Tripoli, and at present associates with none of them—that is, none of them will let him. I am, gentlemen, with all due respect,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

TRIPOLI, Feb. 25, 1801.

Hon. John Marshall, Secretary of State.

Sir:—By the dispatches I have had the honor to transmit to the Department of State since my arrival in this Regency, you have been informed of the most prominent acts performed by this government, and the many depredations they have committed upon every nation with whom they are at peace. You have likewise been informed that the Bashaw's first plan was to establish an annuity equal to what is paid by Denmark and Sweden at Tunis; that Sweden, on the 29th of June, 1798, concluded a peace with this Regency for the sum of $77,000, the contingencies of said negotiation, consular presents, etc., made the sum paid to amount to $100,000. Commodore Blessingh, at the same time, promised that Sweden should become tributary to this Regency and pay, every three years, the sum of $15,000 in cash. By

persuing my dispatches you will be informed that having forced Sweden to the above concessions, he concluded that it was to the interest of the commercial nations to pay him whatever he might think proper to demand; that he considers himself a joint proprietor of the Mediterranean sea with Algiers and Tunis, and he could conceive no reason for the Christian nations giving so many presents to Algiers and so little to Tripoli, only the mildness and inactivity of his predecessors, he therefore drew this conclusion: "The Christians have given nothing to my ancestors because they treated him with civility while they heaped Algiers with presents, who were continually capturing their people; I will do the same and I will be treated by them equally as well as Algiers." How far he has succeeded you will be informed by my dispatch of the 4th of January, 1801. That he has had in contemplation to treat us in the same manner he has already treated Sweden you have been informed in my dispatches of the 18th of October and 1st of November, 1800, and that he means to put his menaces into execution in a few days you will be informed by this dispatch, as well as my letters already forwarded to Messrs. O'Brien and Eaton, whom I have requested to forward copies with all speed to the Department of State.

In consequence of a clause in my instructions I have since my arrival at Tripoli been very particular in stating facts, to Mr. O'Brien at Algiers, for his consideration, and have sent copies of my dispatches open to Government for his perusal, and am sorry to observe that my advice has never been attended to by Mr. O'Brien, for which neglect I hope he will assign his reason to Government for paying so little attention to my requisitions. Having made an amicable reference to the Dey of Algiers, and waited until the 7th inst., I received the inclosed papers, numbers one and two, from Mr. O'Brien, which will inform you with what patriotic zeal and great ability he has defended our cause at Algiers. I am heartily sorry that we were ever reduced to so disagreeable

and humiliating a situation. On Saturday the 7th of February, arrived Hadgi Mahamoud from Algiers with Mr. O'Brien's letters in duplicate, the one inclosed to Leon Farfara and the other to Ciddi Mohammed Daguize; it being the Jews' Sabbath the letters were not brought to my house until 9 p. m., and after Ciddi Daguize and Farfara had been at the castle with the letters, which were dated Algiers, December 29th and 31st. Saturday the 8th, I waited upon Ciddi Daguize and requested him to inform the Bashaw that I had a present to deliver to his excellency, and would be glad to know when I would be permitted to wait on him with it. Daguize answered that he knew there was a present on board the ship that arrived from Algiers, and that his excellency had ordered him to inform me that he would neither receive me nor the present; that he was determined to let the whole world know that he respected not the interference of the Dey of Algiers, and that he would declare war, in form, against the United States of America in forty days from the date of the arrival of the presents. I made use of every argument imaginable to dissuade the Bashaw from putting his menace into execution, knowing that Daguize would report the whole conversation to the Bashaw. Daguize answered that he knew his excellency had no just reason to declare war against us, that he had informed him several times that in the present state of affairs that it was not to his interest to displease the Dey of Algiers; that he advised the Bashaw to respect the requests of the Dey from a conviction that it was his master's interest so to do, and not with any intention to befriend the interests of the United States; but that he was sorry to find the Bashaw paid but very little respect to his advice, being surrounded by a set of mercanaries who had hardly common sense, and who were continually persuading him to declare war against the United States, and assuring him that the Dey of Algiers would only remain angry for a few days; that capturing our ships and enslaving our citizens, our Government would be

obliged to sue for peace and send a person here, cap in hand, who would be glad to conclude upon the same terms Sweden has, and even worse, as America was too great a distance to send a considerable force into this sea." I combatted these ideas but with little success, and Ciddi Mohammed Daguize informed me I might depend the Bashaw will put his threats into execution was it only to try the experiment; that the only service he could render me was to procure me an audience next day, when I would be informed by the Bashaw himself of his determination. Farfara came to my house and read a letter he had received from Bacri, chief of the sanhedrim at Algiers, giving him an account of the articles contained in the box of presents, and likewise showed me a false letter he had procured to be written in case the Bashaw should desire to see the letter from Bacri; he seemed much agitated and requested that his name should not be mentioned during the negotiation, and then confirmed what Daguize had informed me in the morning; he went to visit Daguize and returned in about an hour, tore the forged letter and said that he had requested Daguize to inform the Bashaw, if he should ask, if that Bacri was offended with Farfara, in consequence of his not having written to him by the Tripoline chaoux, and had not written to him, that the letter from Bacri came inclosed to Daguize, who has promised to give direct information if requested, and informed me that he had taken a great deal of pains to prevent the Bashaw from ever supposing that he had any correspondence relative to American affairs, good or bad, and requested me again not to mention his name. This perfectly accords with the tenor of Farfara's behavior on my arrival here, and ever since, as you will be informed by his letter to me, which I forwarded to the Department of State by the Sophia, in April, 1799; yet this man is informed by Mr. O'Brien's means of the whole state of our affairs. Is it any wonder that the Bashaw should be so exorbitant in his demands? On the 9th inst., at 3 p. m., I received an audience which lasted over

three hours. The Bashaw broke silence in an abrupt manner by asking me what I wanted. I have to ask your excellency permission to present a regalo as a token of the friendly intentions of the President of the United States, and to know when you will be at leisure to receive it. "Never, by God, never!" For what reason do you refuse our peace offerings? "Because they were intended for the Bey of Oran or Constantine; it never can be supposed that the Bashaw of Tripoli has occasion for such trifles. Tripoli is very different from what it was some years ago." I observed that probably his excellency did not know what the regalo consists of. "Yes I do," answered he, "better than you do, and if it was ten times as valuable I would not receive it; you may send it from whence it came, and inform the Dey of Algiers that I have received several firman from the Grand Signore relative to the Ragusans and Imperials, which you know I have not in the least regarded, much less will I respect his letters, so that in fututre he may save himself the trouble of soliciting me; he likewise wrote to me relative to the Swedes. You saw what effect it had. I now swear by God, my religion, the head of my son (Ciddi Aly, who was sitting by him) and by this right hand, that I will never be at peace with your nation until your President appoints a person to negotiate a treaty with me without the interference of Algiers or any other nation. That I now declare your treaty no longer binding upon me, and that I will declare war against America immediately, if you do not give me assurances that your President will alter the said treaty to my liking, and give me $250,000 as the price of the same new treaty, and that your nation will annually pay me the sum of $20,000 to continue the same new peace after it is made." I made use of every argument I could devise to make him sensible of the injustice and absurdity of his demand. I explained to him the impossibility of a consul entering into any negotiation that tended to make his country tributary. I expatiated on the improbability of the Government of the

United States ever agreeing to such humiliating terms; I enlarged upon the cause of our difference with France, and contrasted our interests (in wishing to have a peace with Tripoli) with those of Sweden and Denmark, making it clearly appear, from many circumstances, that it was by no means of so great importance to the United States to maintain their peace in the Mediterranean as it was for those nations; but arguments, and the reason resulting therefrom, was entirely thrown away by so fruitless an application of them. The said terms, the Bashaw declared, were the only ones he would ever propose; that the alteration in the treaty he insisted upon above every consideration, and swore he would never go into any negotiation with an agent of the United States upon any other terms, even was he sure to lose his kingdom and with it his head, with this he drew his hand horrizontally across his throat. After three hours litigation he said he would give us time if we would pay him well for it, and demanded $100,000 to wait six months for answers to arrive from America. The result of this audience was that he would wait eighteen months if I would pay him, immediately, the sum of $80,000, and give him assurances that the President of the United States would comply with the rest of his august demands. I negatived the whole, as you may well suppose, and are more particularly informed by my letter to the Bashaw of the 19th inst., a copy of which is inclosed. The Bashaw then observed what a benefit it would be to enjoy his friendship; that he knew I had full powers, or very great powers, otherwise that Bushnac, the favorite Jew of the Dey of Algiers, would not have informed his chaoux that the Consul Americano at Tripoli did not know how to cultivate the favor of the Bashaw, for if he had done right when the Bashaw cleared the brig, he would have made him a present of 100 quintals of sugar and 50 of coffee to enable him to keep his feast of ramazan; that the American nation would have been no loser thereby, as the underwriters would be obliged to pay for it. I answered

that the underwriters themselves were Americans. That I could not imagine that Bushnac being a merchant could possibly be so ignorant as to have said any such thing; and was proceeding to give my reasons, when he stopped me and called Farfara to know if he was not present when Hadgi Mahamoud la Sore informed him of the above; he answered in the affirmative, and said if I did not believe him I might ask la Sore himself, and he would go with me; I declined as unnecessary and observed that if Bushnac had had any agency in the affairs of the United States I was unacquainted with it, but nevertheless, had he given me any orders to justify my conduct to my Government, I would have no objection to follow them. And he had a very good opportunity to have sent a quantity of sugar and coffee by the vessel that brought la Sore here, if he had orders for so doing, for my part I had none; that by so doing he would have made up for my negligence and he would look to the United States for indemnification. The Bashaw said he was hungry; that I spoke upon a full stomach, and then empowered Ciddi Mohammed Daguize to negotiate with me, and appointed Mr. Leon Farfara messenger for both parties, and ordered me to conclude by the feast as he would take his measures accordingly. On the 10th Daguize sent for his treaty by the Bashaw's orders. I sealed the articles separately in order that no alteration might be made in them; he pawned his honor that he would return it again in the same state as when he received it. I said it was immaterial, as the original was at Algiers and another copy was in America. On the 11th and 12th nothing of consequence took place except that Daguize seemed to be convinced of the propriety of my arguments and of the unreasonableness of the Bashaw's demands. I produced the ratification of our treaty, and informed him that it was ratified by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, and that none but the august assembly who had declared it sacred had power to annul or alter one single syllable of its sense. During the

conversation insinuations were made of such a nature, that I will not prostitute my pen even so much as to insert them. In the evening of the 12th Daguize sent for me and requested to be informed whether I would have any objection to give the Bashaw $40,000 and the regalo which came from Algiers, provided the Bashaw would state his demands to the President of the United States and promise to wait eighteen months for answers from America. I answered that I could agree to no such terms; that I only had orders to present the regalo, never supposing the Bashaw had any other demands to make upon the United States but what were specified in his letter to the President of last May, namely "a token of friendship more substantial than compliments." That if the Bashaw had really determined to make the aforesaid demand upon us, I made no doubt but on deliberation he would conceive the regalo, to which I would add his receipt for cloth purchased from me and not yet paid for, a sufficient recompense for waiting eighteen months for answers from the President. This evening arrived à British brig of war from Malta; she landed two chaouxes who have been brought from Constantinople by Capt. Bainbridge of the George Washington. They are the bearers of two firman or quoat sheriffs from the Grand Signore, the one to order the Bashaw to acknowledge the independence of the Republic of the Seven Islands, the other to order his aspiring Bashaw to declare war against France immediately, and other demands similar to what were made by the Grand Signore upon Algiers and Tunis, the particulars of which has not been transferred. The only resolution the Bashaw has taken in consequence of the above is to write to the Famin agent at Tunis, who was expected here, not to come until he received a second order, and to charter a Ragusan vessel to take the chaouxes to the Levant. On the 14th inst. I received a letter from Capt. Bainbridge, dated off Malta, Jan. 10th, 1801. I informed several of the Bashaw's emissaries of it in order that he might be informed

that there really are such things as American frigates, which he seemed much to doubt, and in order to intimidate Marad Rais, who never goes near a vessel that carries guns, being afraid to give the Bashaw advice to the detriment of our interest from cowardice. I likewise received a letter from Joseph Pulis at Malta, which informs me that by the arrival of a brig from London, at that place, that he has been informed that war has been declared between England and Russia. On the 15th arrived a courier from Tunis with inclosure number three, by which you will be informed that Mr. O'Brien, notwithstanding the many communications I have made immediately to him, through his office to the Department of State, has never in the least degree mentioned the state of our affairs at Tripoli to the Dey or Ministry of Algiers, until the 4th of December, and then it was occasioned, it seems, by a complaint said to have been lodged against me by the Bashaw of Tripoli, which I have since forwarded documents to refute. It likewise appears that by Mr. O'Brien not having informed the Dey in the first instance of the Bashaw's insolence and demands upon us, that he has given the Bashaw of Tripoli an opportunity of profiting by his negligence, and of preparing the mind of the Dey to receive such stories as he has a mind to invent to the prejudice of our interests here, and at Algiers. It likewise appears that he has not presented my protest and reference in a manner to produce the desired effect, if at all, as the chief end contemplated by me was, in case of hostility commencing, to prevent the Bashaw from meanly seeking a subterfuge by making a reference to Algiers, as is more particularly explained in my dispatch of the 1st of last November; and it is well-known that in all despotic governments, and especially in Barbary, that the prejudice engendered by first impressions are seldom, if ever, eradicated; it is likewise well-known that the Chiefs of the Barbary States make use of the most trivial circumstances, in order to extort money from the nations with whom they are at peace,

and to have some sort of a pretext to commit depredations on their commerce. From these premises, I presume, it will be necessary for consuls in Barbary and commanders of squadrons on this station to have very particular instructions. It farther appears that Mr. O'Brien has not followed my advice in any one instance, and especially in the maneuver of presenting my protest and reference at Algiers, and that the only cause visible to me is to give the Jews an opportunity to send presents in lieu of cash, and to charge double their value for them. If otherwise, why was application delayed until there was a direct conveyance from Algiers to Tripoli, by the Tripoline chaoux, who had every opportunity espousing his master's cause, which I am afraid he has done very effectually? Inclosure number four is a copy of my advice to Mr. O'Brien, which I have already forwarded to Mr. Smith and the Department of State, and I presume Government will see the propriety or impropriety of Mr. O'Brien not having paid greater attention to them. This being the first day of the festival I did not see Daguize until the evening; we went over the same ground again, and the whole of what is contained in my dispatches since last April being discussed, I offered him, in addition to what I had before, a bill upon Algiers for $10,000, which he rejected and said if I would give him $30,000 that he would go and hear the Bashaw's answer. I told him it was impossible, and withdrew. On the 16th Daguize sent Farfara to inform me that the Bashaw had agreed to take $30,000 and wait eighteen months time, and that he expected I would give him a positive answer when I complimented him in consequence of the festival. Considering the real state of our affairs, the great detriment to the operations of Government should any of our vessels be captured, as well as the great loss and dangers our fellow citizens were exposed to, I found it necessary to come to a conclusion on the best terms I could obtain, as it is impossible for me to calculate the consequences of a war. Confiding entirely in the candor of

Government for my justification, not doubting that the President would be convinced of the necessity of the measure, and that a sacrifice had become indispensable, it only remained for me to make it as small an amount as possible. I waited on Daguize and found means to induce him to value the regalo and tischera for cloth purchased from me, but not paid for, at $10,000, which I had promised made $20,000, the Bashaw's demand and my offer was now only $10,000 apart. I therefore, after assuring Daguize that what I was offering, it was by no means reasonable for him to expect, and that I by no means was authorized by my instructions, I offered to divide the difference and give bills on Algiers for $15,000. The report was made to the Bashaw, who said he would give me his answer when he received my visit of ceremony. At meridian I waited upon his excellency, who received me in full divan. He made use of the same arguments, menaces and imprecations which he had made on the 29th, and ultimately said he would wait one year for the President's answer, for the sum I had offered; but swore most bitterly that he would not take less than the bills for $20,000 and presents, to wait for eighteen months. I therefore thought it expedient to conclude upon the above terms, which were accepted by the Bashaw in presence of the whole divan Ciddi Mohammed Daguize and Mr. Leon Farfara, the Bashaw's projector general and our most righteous broker; he is likewise agent of the sanhedrim at Algiers for maintaining the peace of the United States of America with the Regency of Tripoli, upon the terms most likely to favor the interests of the patriotic fraternity. I promised his excellency to deliver him the bills and presents immediately on his sending me his letters to the President of the United States, which he said he would do as soon as he had time. I wished him a very good day, and thus ended our negotiation, as every person in Tripoli imagined, never suspecting the Bashaw intended annulling an act he had made in full divan. The 18th inst. Daguize sent Farfara

to call me. I went to his house, and judge my surprise, sir, when he said he was sorry to inform me that the Bashaw had altered his mind, and he would not accept the presents and bills, neither would he wait for answers from America upon any consideration, unless I would give a certificate under my hand and seal, that the President of the United States would comply with every article of his demands. I informed Daguize of the impossibility of my giving such security, and observed that had I power to enter into an amicable negotiation with the Bashaw, I should be much to blame to throw away $30,000 for time, when I would have it in my power to deduct it from whatever sum the Bashaw and I should ultimately conclude. Daguize said true, and endeavored to persuade me to enter into another negotiation, and to annul the aforesaid, which I positively refused to do, let what would be the consequence. I made Farfara produce the particulars of my agreement, written in Italian, which I had signed, in order that no misunderstanding might take place and observed that his master, by making agreements one day and annulling them the next, would certainly injure his reputation at the different courts of Europe, as well as at the Porte and other States of Barbary. Daguize smiled and said it was very immaterial to the Bashaw, provided he could gain anything by it; that he had succeeded with the Swedes partly by force and partly by deception, and that he was in hopes to succeed in the same manner with the Americans. If that is the case, I replied, I am doubly justifiable in refusing to enter into any farther negotiation whatever. I am, gentlemen, your humble servant. You may observe, sir, a considerable risque of ability and candor displayed in Daguize not commonly found in a Moor. The reason is he has been many years in France where, seeing the revolution, he had the ability to introduce a large quantity of grain and other provisions, and to obtain payment in gold and silver, when they were paid in assignments with which he has speculated and has made an exceeding large

fortune; which, however, he has taken care to leave in Europe. He speaks tolerably well, and has imbibed a considerable share of intrigue so requisite to his conducting affairs in the troublesome times he remained in France; he is by far the most rational member of this community; he dispises any person who accepts a bribe to make the best bargain for his master, yet he does endeavor, as much as possible, to inspire him with honorable sentiments but with very little effect; for instance he observed to the Bashaw that the property of the consuls ought to remain sacred, and advised him to pay immediately for the goods plundered from the Venitian and French consuls, and for the cloth he had taken from me. He said he would consider about it, but he has made no restitution whatever. Upon the whole Daguize has been of service to the consuls in general here. On the 19th every means was used to intimidate me to compliance with the Bashaw's demands but to no effect. I presented the letter, of which the inclosed is a copy, inclosure number five, as my ultimatum, and absolutely refused to enter into any other negotiation whatever, as I am convinced it would be of no service whatever, as his intentions are evidently to capture our fellow citizens in order to oblige our Government to comply with his own terms. I hope that by the end of next month there will be no fear of his capturing any of our vessels, as I have informed them of their danger in last November, and my circulars, I am informed, have arrived at Leghorn, Lisbon, Algiers and Tunis, which will insure the desired effect. I shall, by every opportunity, write to our agents in Europe not to permit our vessels to sail unless under convoy, and I shall request Mr. O'Brien to employ the General Washington and General Green, when she arrives, upon that service if compatible with their instructions. The Bashaw has kept my letter in his possession; he caused it to be read, and sent me for answer that it is true that he had agreed to the terms contained therein, but that he has since changed his mind, in consequence of

reflections that did not, at the instant, occur; and from that instant I have not heard a syllable, officially, on the subject. I have reason to believe that he will not declare war against us until he receives answers to his letters from Algiers, which will be in about eight weeks; and if the Dey writes him forcibly upon the subject that he will take the sum offered to wait eighteen months. But as that is merely conjecture, I find it my duty to write to all our consuls to bring our vessels up until they hear again from me. This supposition is by no means vague, when we consider that he has not received cash for his treaty with Sweden yet, and that he expects to settle his affairs with Denmark soon, and knows there are six sail of Danish ships of war in this sea. That there are three chaouxes from the Grand Signore—the business of two I have already informed you—the third is authorized to demand $100,000 for goods plundered from the Ragusans, and has been here some months without having effected one object of his mission; add to this that on the 23rd inst. arrived an Imperial brig from Algiers and Tunis with the same Capgi Bashi or Ambassador that has made the demand on Algiers and Tunis and has made similar demands here, and threatens the Bashaw with the Grand Signore's displeasure if he does not comply with his propositions, and that at present there is great scarcity of grain in this Regency, which renders the friendship of Algiers necessary. I think nothing but an insensibility of his situation can induce him to break with us until his affairs with other nations are more arranged, which is so far fortunate as it gives me an opportunity to alarm our commerce. I shall only add, at present, that if Government determines to station three of our vessels in this sea, we shall be enabled to maintain our peace on the same terms that England and France have done this last century; but if on the contrary they make one concession we will inevitably be established upon the same humiliating terms that Sweden and Denmark are, and our fellow citizens will be plundered

and enslaved, at the caprice of a man who considers a treaty no longer obligatory than it is subservient to his interest, and each concession only serves to increase his avarice. And I will suffer to forfeit my life if the Swedes, in less than three years, are not treated in the same manner they have been, and have as many of their citizens or subjects enslaved, their annuity increased, or be obliged to send a small squadron on to burn their cruisers and cannonade the town. Under this conviction, and sensible that we shall be used in the same manner if we make the same concessions, I request the President to appoint a person to represent the United States at Tripoli, and to negotiate the terms, relying that I will render him every service in my power; for, although I have ever thought it the highest honor to serve my country, upon the same humiliating terms I can not remain at Tripoli. Should the President think proper to appoint me to any other service, equal to my rank, I will accept the task with pleasure, and I flatter myself my conduct has not nor ever will be such as not to merit a continuance of his confidence. But, if on the contrary, force sufficient is sent to co-operate with me, I will remain with pleasure and exert my small abilities to prevent my country from becoming tributary, and to render the measures I have advised effectual, and our peace with this Regency founded on a basis firm and secure. I request that my instructions may be as explicit as the nature of the negotiation will admit, and that the greater dispatch may be made. Should war be declared I shall proceed, with my family, to Tunis and there wait the President's orders. I am, sir, sentiments of the greatest respect,

Your most obedient servant,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

TRIPOLI, 26th Feb., 1801.

Consuls O'Brien and Eaton.

Gentlemen:—Being informed that the Bashaw detains the courier, I sent my dragoman this instant to demand the reason. The Bashaw answered that his letters were not ready and that they should be sent this evening without fail. I presume they are for Algiers. Mr. O'Brien will, I hope, act with energy and explain the nature of the Bashaw's demands, and the effect it will have on Algerine influence at Tunis. He had better interest the Dey's pride, which I am certain if rightly managed will at least produce a very sharp letter to the Bashaw of Tripoli. Mr. Eaton will please forward my dispatches to Algiers,—that is those directed to Mr. O'Brien—by a courier extraordinary; those to the Department of State he will please to forward via Europe. If the Bashaw will accept what I have offered and he agreed to on the 16th, and since refused, I will give it him for eighteen months, if not war is inevitable,—at all events alarm our commerce. I am with due respect, gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

TRIPOLI, March 9th, 1801.

Richard O'Brien, Esq., Algiers.

Sir:—In my communications to you of the 20th, 23d and 26th ultimo, I informed you that the Bashaw having agreed to accept $20,000, the presents from Algiers and tischera for the cloth, which he plundered from me, as a recompense for waiting eighteen months to receive answers to his demands from the President of the United States. That the 18th ult. he annulled the whole of the negotiation and refused to accept the above sum, or to grant the said period, unless I would give him a certificate, under my hand and seal, that

the President would agree to his unjust demands, as are specified in said dispatch, and which I peremptorily refused, and on the 19th delivered my ultimatum, a copy of which is inclosed in this. On the 26th I informed you that the Bashaw had written to Algiers; I now confirm that information, and think that nothing but obstinancy and insensibility of his situation will make him disobey the Dey at this instant, as there are three chaouxes here from Constantinople, besides the Capgi Bashaw and his suite that arrived from Algiers. He has not received the cash for his treaty with Sweden yet; he knows the Danes have a squadron in this sea, and will come to settle their affairs as soon as they have arranged them at Tunis, if their disturbance with Great Britain does not prevent them. Add to this, sir, that there is a scarcity in this Regency which renders the friendship of the Dey more immediately necessary to the Bashaw, a proof of which is evident in my not having heard from him since my last letters to you. I am creditably informed that he has written to the Dey to inform that he only wants America to pay him what Sweden has, and to obtain a promise from the Dey not to interfere between him and the United States; that he has not adverted to the relative situation of the affairs of Sweden with this Regency, when he declared war against that nation, nor mentioned in his letter the agreement he made with me for time, he has since annulled, as it would evidently be against his interest so to do. It is, therefore, incumbent on the consul general of the United States at Algiers, for the time being, to explain to the Dey the whole of the Bashaw's demand upon us, and the offer which we have made to him to wait for answers, and to endeavor to persuade him to write to the Bashaw to accept the proffered terms. If the Dey writes with energy the Bashaw, I have reason to believe, will still accept the terms; if not, I will have the consolation of knowing that I have done everything in my power to evade the impending danger. And I request you to do the same by every

opportunity, as there has not sailed a vessel from Europe since the 10th of January, except the British brig of war which has no communication with this city. Marad Rais is fitting out several other cruisers, but very slowly, in order that they may be ready to sail about the time the Bashaw expects his answers from the Dey of Algiers. You say if I want money to get it from Farfara. He would give it to me, I believe, if he had it; but he, at present nor this eighteen months past, has been able to command $500—I have been reduced, several times, to the necessity of borrowing for my culinary purposes and other necessities. Farfara has owned to me that although his credit is considerable, that he is not worth $2,000 owing, in a great measure, to the contributions levied upon the tribes here, as upon his friends in Leghorn. Inclosed is a duplicate of my last circular, which you will please to multiply by every conveyance, and if the General Green, or any other of the rest of our vessels of war, have arrived, I should advise them to be detained, in order to convoy our merchant ships out of the Mediterranean, if compatible with their instructions. It is not improbable that these pirates will sail with the passports of the United States in like manner that they did with the Swedes. The commanders of the armed vessels will be under the necessity of keeping a sharp lookout. Marad's general cruising ground is between Cape de Gatt and Barcelona, but if he meets with success there it is probable he will cruise off Lisbon. But there is but one or two who have ability even to accompany him, and the easterly gales in the spring and summer will impede his passage through the Straits. The brig Hassan Bashaw and schooner Skjoldebrand is a sufficient force, well manned with Yankees, to send, with any of the cruisers of Tripoli, Marad, their chief (who is a very great poltroon) to the infernal regions in less than an hour. Should a war ensue, no pains ought to be spared to get Marad and his crew into our power, as they are mostly all natives of this city, and many of them of the best families;

and the Bashaw would be obliged to act so as to get them clear as soon as possible, for fear of their relations conspiring against him. As for the renegade himself, he is universally despised even by the Bashaw, who has countenanced him from motives of interest; he is fond of the treason but the traitor he despises. You will please show this letter to the commanders of our ships of war, and forward a copy of it to the Department of State, with all other communications from me, as soon as possible. I am, sir,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

Remarks in your letter to Mr. Smith of the 13th of December, 1800, you said "time does not permit me to add more, but much I have to add upon the business." It will be too late to make this addition when our ships are captured and fellow citizens enslaved. In your soundings and bearings of the 29th of December, which I received the 7th of February, 1801, you say "inclosed Consul Cathcart will receive a letter—it had a narrow escape." As I have not received said letter even to this day, I was kept in the most tormenting suspense until the 15th of February, when the duplicate arrived which says "Consul Eaton will receive a letter from Mr. Smith—it had a narrow escape." I would be glad to know who the letter was for. And must observe it is very ungenerous to trifle with my feelings at so momentous a crisis, when nothing less than the peace of our nation was at stake.

TRIPOLI, March 9th, 1801.

William Eaton, Esq., Tunis.

Dear Sir:—Inclosed with this are two packets, one for the Secretary of State, the other for Mr. O'Brien, and some circulars which you will please forward to their destination for the Department of State via Europe by all means. There

is a Tripoline bound to Tunis in a few days, when I will send you a duplicate of the dispatch open for your perusal; this goes via Zebi by a special conduct, and contains an amplification of my dispatches forwarded to you by a land courier, on the 26th of February. I have not heard one word from the Bashaw since upon that subject. For my ideas I refer you to the inclosed letter to Mr. O'Brien, and would be glad of your opinion as usual. You will please acknowledge, by date all the letters and packet as you have received them from me this year, and inform me how you have forwarded them, for my consolation. By the next opportunity I will forward you a copy of the letter you requested, if time permits. When the Danish Commodore comes here, please to send me $1,000 for my disbursements. I am in anxious expectation to have a long letter of observations and animadversions from you soon. I am

Most cordially, your friend,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

P. S. If war is declared I shall visit you when you send the cash. In case of my absence consign it to the Danish consul, dispatch courier, if any letters arrive for me from Government. On my entrance into Gozella I will hoist an American flag at M. T. G. M. head. Adieu. Our flag still flies.

TRIPOLI, March 13th, 1801.

Hon. John Marshall, Secretary of State.

Sir:—Since my last dispatch, the inclosed being a duplicate, I have not heard a syllable from the Bashaw, which convinces me that he waits for answers to his letters from Algiers before he takes any decisive measures. If the Dey of Algiers peremptorily orders him to accept of my offer, I think, notwithstanding all his bravado, that he will acquiesce; if, on the contrary, the Dey does not write to him

upon the subject, war will be the immediate consequence. Upon the whole our peace being guaranteed by Algiers has been of service to our interests here, and I should recommend to Government to continue the treaty in its present form, was it not for the consideration that should we have a rupture with Algiers, that Tripoli will immediately take that opportunity to break with us, as it were in a manner, to retaliate upon us for forcing them to keep their agreements with us inviolable; and if the Dey does not use his mediation in our favor, in the present instance, it can answer no purpose whatever to continue the treaty in its present form.

The cruisers of this Regency are the same in number and force that they were when I forwarded my last list of the marine force of this Regency. They are now fitting for sea and will sail the beginning of April, probably to capture Americans. I have forwarded circular letters to all our consuls, from Triest to Lisbon, to detain the American vessels in port, and by no means to permit them to sail unless under convoy. I have taken every step to evade as well as to lessen the calamity that depends upon me; the result is in the hands of the most High, which time will determine. Whatever means the wisdom of Government adopts to arrange their affairs in future, with this Regency, the greatest dispatch, I hope, will be made, and funds forwarded to put it into execution, which will facilitate the negotiation very much, unless iron should be preferred to gold as a metal which will insure us a more honorable as well as a more permanent peace, although it would be attended with considerable expense and some risk. I am, with sentiments of the greatest respect, your most

Obedient and humble servant,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

TRIPOLI, March 13th, 1801.

Mr. W. England, Malta.

Sir:—Your favor of the 2nd inst. arrived the 5th. I return you thanks for the offer you have made of your services, more especially as they are immediately necessary in consequence of the Swedes having concluded a treaty with this Regency, on the 2nd and 3rd of January, upon the following terms:

For peace and ransom of 131 captives, $25,000; and annually to maintain peace, $20,000; in consequence of paying the same punctually the Swedes have obtained permission to load 3,000 tons of salt, annually, at Zoara, gratis, the expenses of which will not be trifling.

By the inclosed circular you will be informed of the state of our affairs, and I request you to cause copies of it to be forwarded to all the agents of the United States in their different localities. The inclosed dispatch for Mr. Marshall, Secretary of State, you will please forward to the Hon. William Smith at Lisbon; or the Hon. Rufus King, London; or in the fault of the said conveyances to John Gavins, Esq. at Gibraltar, as it is of very great consequence; however, if you know of any conveyance more direct to America, you will please embrace it, as by sending letters to Messina and Naples will be the cause of much detention, as few American vessels go there. Was Leghorn not in the possession of the French, it would be the best place to forward letters to, as many American vessels trade there annually. You say you have been charged by the ancient government of Malta with the affairs of the United States of America. The Government of the United States acknowledge no agents but such as are appointed by the President, by and with the consent of the Senate; I therefore advise you to make application through the channel of the Department of State, if that post is eligible to you, as I have informed the President that it is absolutely necessary to appoint a consul regularly commissioned in your Island, and I make no doubt

priority of service will be considered some inducement to give you the preference; that is, supposing that none other is appointed previous to your applying for said post. I shall be indebted to you to forward my letters, and be so obliging as to inform me of anything that transpires worthy notice, and command me, without ceremony, in any thing that this Regency affords. I am, sir, with assurances of perfect consideration,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

TRIPOLI, March 18, 1801.

William Eaton, Esq., Tunis.

Dear Sir:—By the three last arrivals of cruisers and merchants from Tunis I have not had the pleasure of a line from you, which I suppose in owing to your being soaked at the hot baths. I hope they will answer your expectations and that you will return to Tunis completely purified. I shall try what efficiency those waters have, on my arrival at Tunis, which probably will be soon. Our affairs seems drawing to a crisis; Marad Rais is fitting out, and from the number of water casks he has on board we may suppose, for a three months cruise. I have not heard one word from the Bashaw, upon the subject of our affairs, since I wrote you last. If he takes the cash, as specified, for eighteen months time, he shall receive it from me; but I enter into no negotiation whatever, as I am convinced it would be of no service. I am surrounded by a set of rascals, who have more frequent and better information than I have. Is it possible that Government should permit themselves, and agents, to be duped in so egregious a manner, or that O'Brien really puts the confidence in the Jews he pretends he does? On the 20th ultimo, I forwarded to your address a detail of our negotiation in duplicates, by the old courier

with a white beard. One was directed to you, the other to the Swedish house, and sealed with the Danish consul's seal; the one I requested you to forward to Algiers, the other to send a copy to the Department of State. On the 9th inst. I forwarded a packet for Mr. Marshall, Secretary of State, and another to Mr. O'Brien open for your perusal, which I hope you have received and forwarded, as well as a number of circular letters forwarded in both packages, a copy of which goes inclosed with this. I request you, sir, never to forward any letter or dispatches of mine, unless circular letters, via Algiers, as I do not conceive it to be a safe conveyance by any means. I have never received any of Mr. Latimer's letters since my arrival here; neither have I received a line from Mr. Smith since 1800; nor answers to a packet forwarded to Col. Humphreys in December, 1799; nor to my letters to Mr. Bulkly at Lisbon. And the last letter I received from Leghorn had been broken open (I do not know by whom) and sealed over again with an Algerine pisterene or six masoon piece. With this is inclosed the triplicates of my dispatches for Government, open for your perusal; you will please to make such observations upon them to the Secretary of State as your judgment should direct, and which may in any manner seem likely to promote the interests of our country. I expect a long letter from you soon, and your opinion and advice as usual. You had better inclose your letters under cover to the Danish or Swedish consuls—with both I am upon terms of intimacy. This goes by the tall courier, to whom I have promised that you would give two dollars to insure his fidelity—interest is the ruling passion or vice of these people. I am, dear sir, with assurances of perfect esteem and friendship,

Your most obedient servant,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

The boys paraded the streets today to stone down rain upon the cornfields—vide my letter on this subject last year.

One article ought to be added to our constitution, viz: No person shall be eligible to be a candidate for the Presidency of the United States before they reside six months in each of the Barbary States.

The smallpox rages at present and is very fatal. I tremble for my Eliza—a finer child you never saw. Pardon the effusions of a partial father.

TRIPOLI, March 18th, 1801.

Samuel Williams, Esq., Consul for U. S. of America, London.

Sir:—By the inclosed circular to our consuls and agents in the Mediterranean, you will be informed of the affairs of this Regency, which I request you to publish in order to prevent, as much as possible, our vessels from taking freight for this sea until the existing differences are adjusted, of which you shall be duly apprised. I likewise request you to advise our agents in the Northern Kingdom, as from here I have no opportunity. I am, sir, with assurances of perfect consideration,

Your most obedient servant,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

TRIPOLI, March, 18, 1801.

Mr. W. England, Malta.

Sir:—In a ship that sailed from here on the 13th inst. was a packet for the Secretary of State of very great importance, which I hope you have had an opportunity to forward. I entrusted it to an old man called Capt. George, who had orders to deliver it into your hands, or in your absence to Mr. Firmeaux, the Danish consul. With said dispatch I answered yours of the 2nd inst. and sent you several cir-

cular letters, which I hope you have multiplied and forwarded. Inclosed are some others which I request you to send to their destination, and give copies to the Captains of any of his British Majesty's ships of war, in order that they will be so humane as to advise any American merchant ships they may fall in with, of their danger. It would be of great moment to have permission to land one of my circular letters at Leghorn, which the Commodore who commands the blockade, I make no doubt, will not oppose, provided you send the letter open, which I request you to do if you have an opportunity for that place. I have informed you, in my last, that a peace has taken place between Sweden and this Regency, and they are to pay $250,000, which I assure you is not so easily found in these troublesome times; if the cash should not be paid in time, war again commences. I should thank you to acknowledge the receipt of this, as well as my last dispatch, and believe me to be with assurances of perfect esteem and consideration,

Your most obedient servant,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

N. B. If there is anything this Regency affords which I can serve you in, command me without reserve.

Thomas Appleton, Esq., Leghorn.

Dear Sir:—As this letter goes open I think it inexpedient to enlarge on our affairs with this Regency. Suffice it to say, that war has become inevitable; I therefore request you to forward copies of all my circulars, especially this, to where it should seem most probable to answer the desired effect. I am with perfect respect and esteem,

Your most obedient servant,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

Tripoli, March 13th, 1801.

TRIPOLI, March 19th, 1801.

William Eaton, Esq., Tunis.

My Dear Sir:—There are three couriers on their passage to you with dispatches. I confirm their contents and that is all. I am kept in the most tormenting state of suspense, and have not heard one syllable from the Bashaw since. Marad Rais is fitting out the rest of the cruisers with all speed. I hope my circulars will prevent any of our vessels from falling into their way, as I have forwarded, in all, above thirty via Tunis, Malta and Algiers; the bearer, clothed in sack cloth, is Ciddi Muhammed ben Rascred, a very rich and principal man in Gademis. I have drawn upon you, in his favor, for five hundred mahboobs at twenty days sight, which you will please to pay and charge to my account. I find it is necessary to establish a small fund here of about $2,000 to answer any emergency—capture of citizens, etc. As our broker has no cash, I therefore request you to send me $1,000 by the Danish ships of war and I shall draw upon you, or Algiers, for the rest according to circumstances. Be very circumstantial in your opinion and advice, as I want really to know whether you think the United States of America will ever consent to be tributary to these poltroons. I hope they will think as we do notwithstanding the sanhedrim wishes it otherwise. Inclosed is my letter to you of the 11th of December, and duplicates of my last letter to O'Brien—please to forward it. Be particular in acknowledging my dispatches, and spare no pains to alarm our commerce. I have written to London and Dublin to permit no vessels to take freights for the Mediterranean until affairs are adjusted, which will naturally take much time. Inclosed is a copy of my last letter to Appleton at Leghorn, forwarded via Malta. I am in haste.

Your sincere friend,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

Messrs. O'Brien and Eaton.

Gentlemen:—A letter has arrived from a person at Constantinople, which informs the Bashaw that Ciddi Aly, the former Bashaw of Tripoli, is appointed Bashaw of Tunis; that 27 sail of ships are taking in soldiers for said expedition and are to sail soon. The son of Aly is terrified lest they are destined for Tripoli, the warlike. To wherever they are bound it will make a great alteration in the three Regencies. The report has been of service to us, and I hope, with some other considerations, will keep this man quiet until all our merchantmen are beyond his reach, and some of our frigates out upon this station to protect our trade. Probably I will be the first light-house keeper that will be sacrificed; if so, I shall have the consolation of having prevented my country from becoming tributary to a faithless tyrant, on whom no confidence ever ought to be placed. He has declared that he will defend this place to the last moment; if they come here we shall have some fun. I am, gentlemen,

Your humble servant,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

TRIPOLI, March 20, 1801.

Mr. Eaton will please send a copy of the inclosed to the Department of State; and I would be obliged to him for a copy of the cypher with a key word, as mine has been stolen or mislaid, which is the same. It can be of no use to any person, or detriment to me, as no person knows our key. Adieu, friend Eaton, this is a dreadful anxious moment with me. Alarm our honest mariners. The rest we must trust to Providence. I shall keep the bear at bay as long as possible. You may believe me, without hesitation, when I subscribe myself,

Your sincere friend,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

TRIPOLI, March 21, 1801.

Hon. John Marshall, Secretary of State.

Sir:—Inclosed are my accounts of disbursements and accounts current; likewise a quintuple of Leon Farfara's account for cash and bills paid, in lieu of the stores stipulated by treaty between the United States and this Regency, and likewise for the brig Sophia promised to the Bashaw by Capt. O'Brien. When said treaty was concluded the contingent expenses amounted to $1,500, the whole sum paid by me in cash and bills being $19,500. Mr. Farfara's account current and my account of his disbursement number one were forwarded in due season. I was induced to detain number two and number three in hopes of recovering the purchase of the cloth before I made out my account current, of which, you will be convinced by my last dispatches, is irrevocably lost. The cloth in question was sent to me from Tunis, for which I was to give bills upon the United States, in order that I might have some cash for my support; for notwithstanding the good policy of my keeping, seemingly, on good terms with Farfara, and the implicit faith Mr. O'Brien places in him, he is one of the most incorrigible of villains I ever was acquainted with, and loses no opportunity of imposing upon every person who is necessitated to have recourse to his assistance in pecuniary matters; he says, or at least acts, as if obliged to do it in his own defense. The Bashaw and government imposes on the tribes, and they, in return, impose upon the Christian consuls. Lately I have discovered that our national dragoman is in the pay of said Farfara—no doubt by the Bashaw's orders—in order to be made acquainted with my private concerns, which I am not very sorry for, as I have always made it a point never to say anything before any of them but what I wish to be made public. I have been reduced, very often, to the humiliating necessity of borrowing cash for my culinary purposes, and have frequently waited a week before I could procure 100 yusliques equal to $33.33 from the said Farfara,

in order that I might be obliged to purchase my necessaries from him at treble their value. I have since adopted plans by which I am supplied, for the present, independent of the sanhedrims; but it is absolutely necessary for the consul of the United States at Tripoli, to have a credit of about $2,000, annually, lodged for him at Leghorn, where bills can be drawn upon independent entirely of the tribes. And I am certain that the President by no means intends that the agent of the United States at Tripoli, should depend upon the capricious smiles of a perfidious Jew for the common necessaries of life. The small expenses charged in my account are impositions which the consuls of every nation at peace with this Regency puts up with, and many of them to a much greater extent than I have, or ever will, exclusive of which the Bashaw's family, who are numerous, poor and proud, and mean to excess, are continually troubling the consuls for trifles which can not be charged in account such as medicines, vinegar, tea, coffee, sugar, wine, spirits, spices, plates, glasses, coffee cups, etc., which nevertheless, amounts to something considerable annually. At Christmas and Easter it is customary to give the slaves something; the amount is left to the discretion of the consuls. The priests or missionaries are likewise maintained by donations from the consuls and Christian inhabitants. The rent of the consular house to the month of May, 1804, I have paid in advance, in order that the owner may not raise the rent, as the Bashaw is so systematic in placing of this Regency on the same footing that Algiers is, that he charges one hundred Algerine sequins for the rent of all consular houses that belongs to him. I was afraid that our landlord would follow his example. It is customary, upon the circumscision or marriage of any of the Bashaw's children, to give presents to the amount of from $700 to $1,000, those that I gave, some trifles excepted, were saved from the consular present that I brought with me from Algiers. The $200 which I gave Marad Rais in addition to his consular present,

was at the request of the Bashaw; and the two hundred which I have given away was in order to get intelligence of the Bashaw's real intentions relative to us, and to be informed of the purport of the Bashaw's correspondence with Algiers, in order that, in some measure, I might be able to counteract some of the views of our enemies. I have been at about $250 expense upon the consular house, and would have finished it, which will amount to between $600 and $700, was it not for the state of our affairs. Whatever expense I may think immediately necessary, I will charge in my next account— you may depend, sir, I shall use every economy that is decent. On my arrival here I took a small house in the country, which only cost $75 per annum, which I have not charged in my account, as I do not know whether it will be allowed under the article of house rent—you will please inform me on the subject. I have several times mentioned that the salaries of the consuls at Tunis and Tripoli, are inadequate to their bare subsistance. I have sunk above a thousand dollars since I have been here, and every article of maintenance has increased in value, since my arrival, considerably. I can not imagine why an outfit has not been granted us; by law it is allowed to all our ministers and charge-des-affairs, and every other nation allows their consuls a sum for their expenses and establishment, as it is pretty well understood that the functions of a consul in any of the Barbary States are political and not commercial; they are in fact ministers with the name of consuls, and I should imagine that whatever name may be given to an office, that the service rendered ought to be the criterion of its honors and emoluments. Inclosed is a duplicate of mine of the 13th inst., since which time I have not heard a word from the Bashaw, nor do I expect to until he receives answers from the Dey of Algiers. I have already forwarded my dispatches for the Department of State in triplicates, and

have nothing to add, at present, but to assure you that I am with unfeigned respect,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

TRIPOLI, April 11, 1801.

Messrs. O'Brien and Eaton.

Gentlemen:—I have not heard a word, officially, since I wrote you last. Marad is nearly ready to sail, and has mounted guns upon his gangways, but his quarters are pine, which, if they bear the weight of metal will expose his people to great slaughter, if they should meet with a vessel of half her force, and should they have a sudden squall or a heavy sea; so great a top weight will evidently make their situation very dangerous. A Swedish ship has been sent to Malta to get a tier of guns put upon her, and a brig, which has the Iohannavon Barth painted upon her stern, is now fitting out with a pine breastwork, and will mount about 12 guns; this vessel is very easily known, she having a great stern and a white woman's head. Those three, and probably three polaccas, Neapolitan prizes, will be sent in quest of Americans. These vessels will mount from 14 to 18 guns each. Marad has three months water on board, and should he find none of our vessels in the Mediterranean, he probably will go into the Western ocean. If the General Green has arrived she ought to be employed in looking for these vessels, and if they have no passports, by all means detain them. But it is probable they will serve us as they did the Swedes, get passports first then declare war, and refuse to give the passports up or to let the consul go away. Our vessels of war, if any there are, ought at any rate to search their holds, magazines and sail rooms, for fear of their having any of our fellow citizens on board. Should we be so fortunate to get Marad Rais into our power, we will make

a peace upon our own terms, as the Portuguese have done; but he ought to be rewarded according to his deserts. I have forwarded upwards of 40 circular letters since last November, and have requested all our consuls to multiply them; of course, if they have done their duty our commerce is sufficiently alarmed. Nevertheless, gentlemen, I request you to urge our consuls at Gibraltar and Tangiers to use every method in their power to prevent our vessels from coming into the straits, until our affairs are settled at Tripoli, which I have no reason to expect. I have forwarded circulars to Malta to be distributed to the officers of the British fleet, in order to inform any American vessels they may fall in with, to take care of themselves. In short, I have done everything in my power, and have written to all our consuls from Smyrna to London. I therefore hope the Bashaw and Marad will be disappointed in their views of enriching themselves with the property of our fellow citizens. Farfara, as well as others, in whom I place much more confidence, informs me that much will depend upon the answers which the Dey of Algiers sends to the Bashaw's letters, of which I request Mr. O'Brien to send me a copy for my Government; he would do well to send it to Mr. Eaton to have it translated literally if possible. My letters of October and November ought to be in America long ere this—I hope they may be attended to. If our stores from Tunis do not arrive soon, I should not wonder if we have war with them likewise; there never will be security for our commerce in this sea without a fleet; if we are not able to maintain one we had better cease to be a nation, than suffer such indignities with impunity. Spare no time, gentlemen, to alarm our commerce, for if the Bashaw should now be disappointed it will be of essential service to us in future, as the hopes of enriching himself stimulates him to break with us, even at the risk of having a war with Algiers. It is now forty-three days since the Bashaw's and my letters left for Algiers via Tunis. The return of the Dey's answer will de-

termine our fate in this Regency. Our flag still flies and the presents and most of my little valuables are packed up. The British pick up all Danish merchantmen, which will save the Bashaw of Tripoli the trouble. Of course Commodore Koeford has no business here, as the Danes are in the same predicament that the Batavians are, at present, as they have no merchantmen in this sea. The Swedish frigate arrived safe at Leghorn, and expected to transact her business there —we expect her daily. The Emperor has concluded a peace with the Nepolitans; have shut their ports against the British, and their supplies from Sicily for Malta are cut off. The British have given the Portuguese leave to conclude a separate peace with France, under certain restrictions, and there seems to be a coalition in the north forming against the British—what the United States are about, I know not. On the 21st ultimo, arrived a British frigate and brig of war from Alexandria, in 16 days—brought a letter from Lord Keith, got an answer, water and provisions, and sailed the 3rd instant. The Captain was not visited by any of the consuls through the policy of Bryan McDonogh, who is the friend of the Bashaw, who is a friend of the French. Old Lucas has drank himself into a dropsy and can not live long; he is at times insane; he married a Christian born woman here and shortly after was divorced. As long as he, or McDonogh, are in this Regency the British flag will not be respected. How can it be expected, when these two, and Marad Rais, are continually intoxicated after dinner—a most honorable triumvirate. The news that has leaked out is that the British have got possession of two fortifications, have lost three thousand men, and are very much displeased with the Capt. Bashaw, for not having appeared with the fleet and troops according to promise. But that they were in daily expectation of him when the frigate sailed. I will not proceed any farther. I am, gentlemen,

Your fellow citizen,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

TRIPOLI, April 11, 1801.

Mr. William Eaton, Tunis.

Dear Sir:—A few days ago Suliman Daguis arrived from Tunis; brought a packet from the Danish consul; not one word either from you or of you. I hope nothing extraordinary has happened, as by the four last conveyances from Tunis, I have not heard from you nor have I had a line since yours of the 25th of January. I hope you have received the numerous packages I have forwarded to you, and that you will please acknowledge them by date, and inform me how you have disposed of my circulars, as I assure you this is a very anxious moment with me, when our citizens are plundered and enslaved. Their government will believe their agents, I believe, but I can never imagine they will make the concessions Sweden has. I most sincerely hope, at this instant, we have not a merchantman in the Mediterranean. If we escape the blow that is leveled at us now, I hope that our Government will put it out of the Bashaw of Tripoli's power to ever find us so defenseless again. This goes by the way of Ifax. I am as usual, most cordially,

Your friend,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

TRIPOLI, April 14, 1801.

Mr. W. England, Malta.

Sir:—Inclosed with this is a dispatch for the Secretary of State of the United States of America, which you will please to forward by way of Gibraltar, Lisbon or London, unless you know of a more direct conveyance. The packet which you forwarded to Messina you will please write to your correspondent to know what he has done with it, and request him to forward it by any of the aforesaid conveyances, or to Thomas Appleton, Esq., at Leghorn, as it is of very great importance. In twenty days from this date our affairs will

be terminated, for either war will be declared or settled for some time, of which you shall be duly advised. I send you inclosed some circulars, which you will be pleased to forward to wherever you have an opportunity, especially to Messrs. Gavino at Gibraltar, Simpson at Tangiers and Bulkly at Lisbon. You have not acknowledged my letters of the 18th of March, inclosing several circulars which I hope you have forwarded to their destinations, and you will spare no pains to alarm the commerce of the United States. Your applying immediately,and forwarding any document to the Secretary of State, may facilitate your neglect of being appointed American agent at Malta. I am, sir, with assurances of consideration,

Your most obedient servant,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

P. S. I have heard that you execute commissions; if true, I should be glad to know if you will purchase any little matters I may want in your place, if there is anything to be got there. If our affairs should be settled here, I shall want a youth that can write a good hand in English for copying; if he can write French and Italian so much the better, but it is not absolutely necessary; if any such person can be procured at Malta, you will, in your next, please inform me what he would be contented with per annum. If there is anything in this Regency in which I can serve you, please to command me freely. If you find a person please send me a specimen of his writing.

Tripoli, April 17, 1801.

Messrs. O'Brien and Eaton.

Gentlemen:—I confirm the contents of mine of the 11th inst., and have to inform you that the cruisers are nearly ready to sail, and are waiting for the Swedish ship from Malta, which is expected in about twenty days; at that

period answers are expected from Algiers, it being fifty days since the courier departed with the Bashaw's and my letters. On the 10th of May, the four months allowed the Swedes to bring $250,000 will expire. Should the Lord of Hosts inspire young Gustavus to send two or three frigates here with iron instead of gold, what a difference it would make. I think some of our frigates have arrived; if they have, let them keep a good lookout. It is believed, by the Bashaw and Marad, that we have three frigates in this sea, and that three more are expected. Marad is afraid—he told one of the Swedish captains, the other day, that the Bashaw was a fool to pay any attention to the Dey of Algiers; that he had given the Americans time to get all their vessels out of the Mediterranean, and that he expected nothing more than to make a Scotch prize of it (i. e.) to be captured. I have already informed you that should war be declared against us, that the capture of Marad will insure a peace on our own terms. Should we be so fortunate as to capture the whole squadron, which two frigates can effect with the greatest ease, with what a panic would it strike the other Regencies. It will teach them to believe that we courted their friendship, not through motives of fear,—and that we are a superior race to the nonentity of Naples. What an opportunity had an officer now to signalize himself at Tripoli, as did the great Admiral, Sir Cloudesly Shovel, who was born near Clay in Norfolk, about 1650. In 1674 he was a Lieutenant under Sir John Narborough, who sent Lieut. Shovel to the Bashaw of Tripoli with a requisition, which the Moor treated with contempt. Sir John then dispatched the Lieutenant on shore again, when the Bashaw behaved worse than before. On his return Shovel stated to the Admiral the practicability of destroying the enemy's shipping, which service he performed the same night without the loss of a man. After the Revolution he was knighted and made a Rear Admiral, was afterwards wrecked, his

body recovered, and he was interred with honor in Westminister Abby, London.

Have we degenerated by transplantation? Are Americans less than Britons? Shall we pusillanimously see our fellow citizens exposed continuously to capture, when a well timed energy will leave such an impression upon the minds of these tyrants that will secure our tranquility for ages? No, forbid it honor. I shall never cease to recommend to Government to make no concessions, to act with energy, to retaliate upon the cruisers and subjects of this Regency, until they shall be made sensible, that although we prefer peace, we are not such a degenerated race as to suffer our flag to be insulted with impunity and our fellow citizens to be enslaved, and then come, cap in hand, as the Bashaw had the insolence to express himself, and sue for peace.

Inclosed are some more circulars. I have reason to believe that all our consuls are advised, from Constantinople to London, as I have written via Malta as well as through this channel; nevertheless, for fear of miscarriage, I request you to forward these. Hassan Bashaw sent to Tripoli for Marad's head as a present. If Mustapha Bashaw would order his Raises to take it off, he would render himself, as well as us, a great service; besides it would be treating the Bashaw of Tripoli without ceremony, which is generally esteemed a mark of friendship. Mr. O'Brien will please to peruse my letters to him of the 7th of July, 1799, which contain some observations in anticipation very applicable to the present moment. I shall not write again to Government until our affairs are settled, one way or another, which will now be very soon. I therefore request you, gentlemen, to forward any abstracts from my letters, which you may imagine merits attention, to the Department of State, and believe me to be with all due respect,

Your fellow citizen,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

May 24th, 1801.—Left Tripoli in consequence of the Bashaw declaring war against the United States.

June 2nd.—Arrived at Leghorn, having touched at Malta and landed dispatches.

CURIOUS.

A fit companion for Admiral Nelson's letter to the Bashaw of Tripoli, see my communications to Government in May, 1799.

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

PART II.

Extract of a letter from Tunis, dated June 1, 1801.

On the 27th ult. entered two cruisers of this government from a cruise, a zebec of 24 twelve pounders, and a corvette of 2 brass nines, which had been boarded and disarmed by a French detachment, commanded by Vice-Admiral Gautheaume. The affair is so novel, so well done, and at the same time so laconic, that it seems worthy of detail. "Who are you?" hailed the Republican. "Tunisiens," was the answer. "Whom do you cruise against?" "Neapolitans." "What! do you not know that the Neapolitans are our friends? Dare you insult the allies of Frenchmen? Overboard, in an instant, every offensive weapon or I send you to the bottom." The order was promptly obeyed. "Go make the compliments of the first consul to the Bey, your master. Tell him if it was not his intention to have regarded his breach of faith in renewing the war, you might have remained tranquil and undisturbed at home; but if we find you abroad in search of mischief, we deprive you of the means. Tell him to beware of provoking the resentment of the first consul; it will be terrible to him and to his country." The Admiral wrote to the Bey in the same style. His chagrin and mortification may be better imagined than described. These were two of his best cruisers, but the contempt is more grating than the injury done him. He can not aspire to avenge himself of the French. He dare no more to look for prey from Italy. What shall he do? The Americans are a species of Christians somewhat similar, in their religion and Government, to the French, and must therefore

expiate the affront. We are now the only nation on earth against whom Barbary can safely cruise. The Spaniards are included in the list of French allies; for these reasons the example of the French, though it is the only one worthy of imitation with these people that has happened latterly, is extremely prejudicial to our affairs, and its influence is instantaneous; since it took place the Bey has totally changed his tone of treatment.

A.

TUNIS, 28th June, 1801.

To the Hon. Secretary of State.

Sir:—On the night of the 18th inst. a fire broke out in the Bey's palace which, in its progress, consumed fifty thousand stand of arms. The second day following I received a message to wait on the Bey, but was, at that moment, confined to my bed so that it was not until this morning that I have been able to go to the palace in my carriage. The Bey's object in calling on me was to demand of the United States ten thousand stand of arms. I refused to state his demand. "I have apportioned my loss," said he, "among my friends, and this quota falls to you to furnish; tell your Government to send them without delay." It is impossible, said I, to state this claim to my Government; we have no magazines of small arms. The organization of our national strength is different from every other nation on earth; each citizen carries his own arms, always ready for battle when threatened with an invasion or actually invaded; detachments from the whole national body are sent by rotation to serve in the field, so that we have no need of standing armies nor depositories of arms. It would be an affront to my Government and an imposition on the Bey to state to them this demand, or to flatter him with a prospect of receiving it. "Send for them from France or England," said the min-

ister; "you said I am in a much more eligible situation to this commission from Europe than we are. If the Bey had any intention of purchasing the arms from Europe," said the minister, "he could do it without your agency; he did not send for you to ask advice but to order you to communicate his demand to your Government." But I came here, said I, to assure you that I will make no such communication to my Government. "The Bey will write himself," said he. If so, it will become my duty to forward his letter, but at the same time it is equally obligatory on me to let the Bey be aforehand apprized that he will never receive a single musket from the United States. I should suppose respect to decency, if not a sense of gratitude, would dissuade the Bey from this new and extraordinary claim. Has he not within eighteen months received two large ships' cargoes in regalia? Have we not now another ship laden for him on its passage, and has he not within sixty days demanded cannon extraordinary of the United States? At this rate when are our payments to end? "Never," said the minister. "As to the ships you talk of, they are but the part payment of regalia you have long since owed us as the condition of peace. The other claims we make are such as we receive from all friendly nations once every two or three years; it is an established custom, and you, like other Christians, will be obliged to conform to it." When we shall have completed the payment of our peace stipulations as the condition of a perpetual peace, any new claim on our part will be, at least, an infraction on that treaty, and will be so considered by us. You may, therefore, at once and forever, abandon the idea of future regalia, for I again assure you, in the name of my Government and country, that the discharge of our treaty obligations will put an end to our contributions here. "Your contributions, as you think proper to call them," repeated the minister, "will never have an end. If this be the language you think of holding at this court, you may prepare yourself to leave the country and that very soon." If

change of style on my part, said I, be the condition of residence here, I will leave the Bey's kingdom tomorrow morning. "We will give you a month," said the minister. I ask but six hours, I replied, but you will write? "No." But it is your duty to write. "For deficiency of duty this is not the place where I am to be questioned. I tell you again," continued he, "your peace depends on your compliance with this demand of my master." If so, said I, on me be the responsibility of breaking this peace; I wish you a good morning. Leaving the palace I heard this minister say to one of his colleagues, "By God, that man is mad; but we shall bring him to terms never fear." I do not know how this affair will end; I shall not change my position. I have the honor to be, sir, with perfect respect,

Your most humble servant,

WILLIAM EATON.

B.

TRIPOLI, 3 Jullet, 1801.

Excellence:—Ie suis chargé par le President des Etats Unis de l'Amerique detacher par tous les moyens justes et honorables de maintenir une harmonie parfâite entre la Regence de Tunis et ma nation et juqsú ici j'ai eu la satisfaction de pouvoir me flatter qu'une bonne intelligence etait également un objet dú désir vôtre Excellence contenues dans vos lettres au President des Etats Unis ainsi que civilités personelles temoignées á son Agent me confirment dans cette opinions, mais je me plains de voir que depuis quelques jours j'ai éprouvé un changement de procedès au Bardoqui m'authorise á soupçonner que ma confiance dans les intentions amicales decé Gouvernement n'etait pas bien fondé le refus direct donné l'autre jour á ma vive requéte pour qu'un chrétian domestique dans une famille sous ma protection immediate, put rester dans cette ville sous ma responsibilité

pour sa bonne conduite, ne sont point une évidence d'amitie' ; la pretension peu de temps après, pour les douze maboubs pour le passeport de sauve conduite pour une vaisseau chargés expressement pour son Excellence avec des munitions navales et militaires present dest Etats Unis, né dut point me parâitre un acte d'amitié. Une demande extraordinaire pour dix milles fusils, parait encore moins amicale et le refus de votre Excellence hier d'avoir egard une plaint que j'ai faité contre un de vos Rais pour un outrage commis vers les Etats Unis dans la personne de Monsieur le Consul Cathcart leur agent dans un point unamicable moins hostile appairance et une plus forte raison, puis que votre Excellence parrut donner son approbation á la conduit du Rais. Monsieur Consul Cathcart comme agent du Gouvernement Americain était Passager á bord d'un battiment d'une nation amié de Tunis et dans cette situation fut visité et pillé par les Chans Bukir par Ordre d'un Rais Candiotte Commandant un des Corsaires ve Vité Jussuf. Il avait avec lui des preuves non equivoque et fondées de son existence comme citoyen et Consul des Etats Unis ce caractère aurait du le rendre sacré dans sa personne, et dans ces effects contre la violence de vos Corsaires. La circumstance de son renvoi de Tripoli ne peut en rien changer l'inviolabilic' de son caractère et quoique votre Excellence a été persuadé á de le croire un Brouillon, nous au contraire nous le croyons un homme droit d'un caractère paisible si dans quelque chose il manqua á son devoir c'est un affront de trop grands sacrifices pour soutenir la paix avec Tripoli temoigns trop humiliant de se paisibles intentions. Dans la rupture presente avec les Etats Unis ce Bacha est le soul agresseur. il n'y pas encore vingt six mois, depuis qu'il a signè avec une satisfaction entière les articles de paux perpetuels avec nous, et de notre part nous avons strictment observe nos stipulations, mais en violanttout droit et honneur. il a levé notre Pavillon et insulté notre nation en faisant la guerre, la conviction de la facon d'agir,

peu rigne d'un prince, doit naturellement l'engager á cher chér des pretextes faux pour excuser sa conduite et rien n'est plus possible pour lui que d'attribuer la cause de sa proper violence á Monsieur Consul Cathcart en le traitant anx yeux de tous commè un Brouillon, mais j'ai un opinion trop exaltée de la penetration de la magnanimité et de la bonne foi de son Excellence la Pacha de Tunis pour le supposer, capable d'être influencé par les insinuations ou l'example son maniaque de Tripoli, n'a-t-il pas tué son père et assassiné son frère et n'a-t-il pas outragé toutes les nations avec lesquelles il avait fait des accords pacifiques, le temps de ses tribulations s'avance; on peut être assuré qu'il sera hatié de sa temerité et de son manque de foi á l'egard des Etats Unis Dieu le rayera de la liste des Princes; il est encore possible que les Juifs Algeriens ou le Dey d'Alger qui est notairement controlé par eux, pouvait avoir taché de prejudicier Monsieur Cathcart dans l'esprit de votre Excellence, les Juifs le haissent, parcequ on le connait un honnête homme, mais je serais faché d'écroire un seul instant que votre Excellence put faire la moindre attention á cette race de traitres. L'objet de cette communication et de prier votre Excellence d'avoir egard á sa resolution de hier et d'accorder á Monsieur Cathcart la permission de venir á Tunis, oú il attendra les ordres de son Gouvernement, ainse que de demander une satisfaction exemplaire pour l'affront fait á cet agent res Etats Unis par le Corsaire Tunisien le 29 ième Mai—Ces demands sont raisonables, et conforms á la bonne foi et á l'amitié, s'ils sont refusés il sera de mon devoir de faire une relation des faits au President mon maitre, et votre Excellence dans ce cas ne devrait pas être surpris si on usait des represailles á l'egard de les Batiments. Si ces demandes me sont refusées, ils seront une si forte evidence et exiteront des si justes apprehensions dés secrettes intentions hostile contre ma patrie de la part de ce Gouvernement que je serai constraint d'empecher la venue des Batiments le present déjá en route pour Tunis,

et de refuser mes passeports aux Corsaires de cette Regence, extremités qui me sont infiniment peinibles; je remets donc á cette justice eclairée qui a porté la reputation de votre Excellence dans toutes les Courts de l'Europe au dessus des autres Regences de ces Contrées de lever les causes de cette mes intelligence, et á même temps je puis assurer votre Excellence que rien me sera plus agreable au President des Etats Unis, que de voir les biens de l'harmonie des deux nations plus fermement cementée en ouvrant une Correspondence Commercial avantageuse aux deux parties, et par le moyen de laquelle les Arsenaux de cette Regence, seront toujours fournis de tous les materiaux necessaires pour la fabrication des travaux publiques, en echange des productions de ce Royaume; d'une telle Correspondence naitrait des avantages plus essentials aux interets des deux nations et plus favorable á la cause de l'humanité que de tous ceux qu'on pourrait esperer des bisbilles, de l'ammosité, ou l'outrage intressé á la guerre, mais une pareille Correspondence ne pout se maintenir que par une perseverance reciproque d'hospitalité et de bonne foi, quelque soit la mésure qu'il semblera á la plus convenable á yôtre Excellence d'adopter dans cette occasion et quelque soit l'issue de cette mes intelligence, que j'ose esperer momentanée je pris vôtre Excelldence d'être assuré du profond et Personnel respect et considerations avec lequel j'ai l'honneur d'être de vôtre Excellence,

Le trés humble et devoué serviteur,

WILLIAM EATON.

À Son Excellence Le Pacha
Bey de Tunis au Bardes.

TUNIS, July 15, 1801.

Hon. Secretary of State.

Sir:—After the 28th ult. copy of letter A, nothing occur-

red until the 13th inst. when I presented myself at the palace to demand satisfaction for an insult offered our nation, in the person of our agent from Tripoli to Leghorn, by a cruiser of this Regency. The Bey, not only refuesd the satisfaction I demanded, but said that he never would consent that Mr. Cathcart should enter his kingdom, because he was an embrolione, a litigious character. I asked what document he had to justify his opinion. He did not seem disposed to enter upon any explanation, but repeated that Mr. Cathcart was an embroline, who should never again be permitted to enter his kingdom; and as to the insults of which I complained, it was too trifling to form matter of serious discussion. It was no great offense for his corsair to take a few provisions; it was, at any rate, no affront to the American flag because done in an Imperial vessel, and as to Mr. Cathcart he was no longer considered as a consul, because he had been sent away by the Bashaw of Tripoli. I returned to my office and addressed to the Bey the letter B, here inclosed. The next morning I received a polite note from the palace inviting me to an interview, and promising all the satisfaction I desired. I went accordingly, and was heard with attention. The Bey promised to bastinado the captain (which he will never do,) and as to Mr. Cathcart coming to Tunis he would think further of it. I am persuaded he will come into the measure, and was at that moment prepared to consent to it, but was withheld by a kind of reluctance natural to retraction; and I did not think proper, at that instant, to press the subject. I, this day, made a visit of ceremony at the palace; nothing of the passed controversy was revived. I talked of the arrival of our frigates and of Mr. Cathcart, without any reserve and without contradiction. All is tranquil again for the moment, but the details which I have had the honor to transmit to the Department of State, since the commencement of this year, show the extreme capriciousness of this government, and go to substantiate an opinion long since formed here

but an impression of fear. Since my interview of the 23rd I have learned that the Bey received letters, both from Tripoli and Algiers, soliciting him not to receive Mr. Cathcart at Tunis; but I am informed, by Dr. Tirratti, who has been five years in bondage in Algiers, and a considerable part of the time in the American house, that the Dey of Algiers would have enforced his guarantee of our treaty with Tripoli, had he not been dissuaded by Bacri and Bushnac. This physician, it seems, has been very intimate with these Jews; has gotten himself rich in Algiers, and has actually in his possession brilliants to the amount of $40,000; is acquainted with all the politics and intrigues of Algiers, and is a particular friend of Mr. O'Brien's. He confirms my suspicion that those Jews, Bacri & Co., were the sole cause of sending the Washington to Constantinople. But that Mr. O'Brien was so much opposed to that expedition that he was half resolved to leave the Regency and proceed, in the Washington, to America; and that nothing deterred him from the resolution but an apprehension of the mischief that might result from such an extremity to our unalarmed commerce. If I have been too severe in my strictures on the conduct of that agent's conduct in report of the propects of these Jews, it will give me more pleasure to render concessions than to establish by demonstration, suspicions which have been founded on presumptive evidence. Tirratti says that the Jews informed him that they gained 400 per cent. on the Washington's cargo. I can not comprehend how this can be reconciled to a righteous stewardship. The same doctor has put into my hands some interesting articles of information relative to Algiers, which can not be trusted to a legible character. My present state of convalesence does not permit me to reduce it to cypher. He came by land from Algiers on his way to Europe; has particular recommendations to me from Mr. O'Brien, (I don't know why) consequently lodges in my house. I load him with civilities, and I believe, have used him malgré tui to

detect the perfidy of his Jew friends. All his communications are confidential. I have the honor to remain, sir,

With perfect respect.

WILLIAM EATON..

CIRCULAR.

Consulate of the United States of America.

TUNIS, July 23rd, 1801.

The Bashaw of Tripoli having declared war against the United States of America, a squadron has been destined, by the American Government, to impede the mischief meditated by that Regency against our commerce and tranquility; it therefore becomes obligatory on us to advise the agents of all powers, in friendship with the United States, that Tripoli is actually blockaded by said American squadron, and that all vessels attempting to enter that port will be dealt with according to the laws of nations, applicable in such cases.

WILLIAM EATON,
Agent and Consul at Tunis.

Consulate of the United States of America,
July 23, 1801.

Sir:—I have received your circular of the 23rd inst., stating that in consequence of the Bashaw of Tripoli having declared war against the United States of America, a squadron has been destined by that Government to impede the hostile intentions of that Regency, and that Tripoli was actually blockaded by said American squadron; and that all vessels attempting to enter that port will be dealt with according to the laws of nations applicable in such cases. As the garrison of Malta occasionally receives supplies of live cattle from Tripoli, I beg to be informed whether the American Commander of the blockade has instructions to

permit vessels to enter, who may *bona fide* come there for the purpose of loading provisions for the use of the garrison of Malta, or any other of his British Majesty's garrisons in the Mediterranean, and to depart with the same. The blockade, if meant to extend to this prohibition, may under existing circumstances, do more to distress those in friendship and alliance with the Government of the United States of America, than the enemies they are at present actually contending with. I have the honor to be with most respect, sir,

Your most obedient servant,

HENRY CLARK,

Charged with H. B. M.'s Affairs.

To William Eaton, Esq., Agent and Consul-General for United States of America, Tunis.

TUNIS, July 24, 1801.

Sir:—I have received your note of this morning. The instructions of the Commander of the American squadron before Tripoli are discretionary, but all measures will be carefully avoided which may have a tendency to distress those in friendship with the Government of the United States, so far as such a precaution consists with the object of the blockade, which come to Tripoli *bona fide* for the purpose of loading provisions for any of his Britanic Majesty's garrisons, will meet no other impediment than what the security of that object imposes. I have the honor to be with perfect consideration, sir

Your most obedient servant,

WILLIAM EATON..

Henry Clark, Esq., H. B. M.'s Agent, Tunis.

TUNIS, 24th July, 1801.

To Richard Dale, Esq., Commander of the U. S. Squadron in the Mediterranean.

Sir:—I can not give you stronger evidence of the favorable impression your appearance here made on this Bey, than by informing you that on the instant of his receiving advice of the arrest of the schooners, boats and crews he dispatched one of the most distinguished renegades of his court to cause them to be released, and to order his coast guards to have particular respect for the Americans. Yesterday morning I had an audience at the palace, and delivered him your letter with an Italian translation; he seemed highly flattered with its style, but I could discern some uneasiness in his countenance which he endeavored to conceal, but which discovered itself on my return from the palace to the city. A person of confidence at court, and much in my friendship, came and advised me that Tripoli was actually famishing for bread, and that she depended alone on Tunis for supplies. He intimated that applications would be immediately made by this Government for my passports of safe conduct for several vessels, which were now taking in their cargo for that place. In order to evade such an application, and with a view of profiting of this weapon to wound the enemy, I instantly circulated among the foreign agents here exhibit A of the inclosure, sending, at the same time, a copy to the Bey's Prime Minister. It produced convulsions at the palace. All commerce here is monopolized by the Government. The chief commercial agent was sent to my house, with a particular request that the blockade might be so modified as not to effect the interests of this Regency. I answered that however desirable such a modification in respect to our friendship with Tunis might be, it could not be acceded without defeating the object of the blockade. Tripoli had made war against us in violation of the most sacred faith and honor. She ought previously to have taken into calculation all the possible con-

sequences of such a step, and if our friends suffered a partial and temporary inconvenience from the dispositions we found ourselves compelled to adopt to punish the outrages of our enemy, it was but the common effect of war, and ought not to give umbrage. Some time passed in discussion. The agent grew agitated, and said he was authorized to assure me that adherence to this position would endanger our peace with Tunis. Here I appealed to the good sense of the Bey, observing that I felt a confidence that the Bey would never so far depart from the established and acknowledgel maxims of war, as to demand of an agent of a nation at war, passports to furnish the means of defence and subsistence to an enemy. He demanded a letter from me recommending to your clemency a vessel laden with wheat already departed, and another on the point of departure for Tripoli. This I refused on the general principle. He proceeded to menace my personal situation. I told him I was prepared for all events but the censure of my Government. He demanded, "Are you then decided?" Necessarily so, said I. He left my house in a most violent rage, and immediately forbade the embarking of provisions I had made for the Grand Turk, observing as he went out that indemnity would be claimed of the United States for any damages which might result from this step, to which I replied that this would become an article of discussion between the two governments, which at the present crisis could not be debated..

Today I received note B from His Britanic Majesty's agent, to which I answered—all of which I submit to your approbation. Thus, sir, I have blockaded Tripoli at Tunis without consulting you, because this, with many other things, the want of time and pressure of affairs let slip my memory. I trust, however, the emergency will justify the expedient. It is certainly the most distressing blow which at this moment we have the power of inflicting, and famine is a weapon lawfully employed to vex an enemy. I can not

doubt, therefore, that this measure will obtain your approbation and support. Tripoli is in great distress. Her corsairs are all at sea; she is starving in her capital, and will be thrown into consternation at your unexpected appearance. If this position, which the good Providence of God gives us, can be sternly held a few months, Tripoli will be compelled to ask peace on our own terms. The object is so desirable that it seems worthy exertions, more especially so as Algiers and Tunis are looking to the issue of this rupture as precedent for their intercourse with the United States. I have the honor to be, sir,

Your obedient servant,

WILLIAM EATON.

P. S. August 1st to letter of 24th July to Com. Dale. I have carried the point of blockading Tripoli with this Regency. The progress of shipments is stopped, and the Tripoline agent is actually offering for sale, in the market, the supplies of grain he had made to be shipped for Tripoli. The Tunisian Minister observed to me at the palace, 30th ult., that there is a small port about ten leagues on this side of Tripoli, to which the sandals of Tunis were constantly in the habit of carrying provisions, and demanded whether the port was included in the blockade, to which I answered that the object of the blockade extended to cutting off all communications by which supplies could be furnished to the enemy, and that this port was necessarily included. He said he knew the laws of war among the Christians, but exceptions had always been made to those in favor of Tunis by Christians at war with other Regencies of Barbary, and he hoped to find the same friendly dispositions in the United States. I answered that it would be very painful to us to wound interests of Tunis in our operations against Tripoli, but the nature of this war could not admit of exceptions to the common maxims of war in favor of any friend whatever, when those exceptions opened the door of supplies to the enemy. The commercial agent of the court signified to

me, that this step so sensibly touched the interests of so many individuals in Tunis, that a rigid adherence to it on my part might endanger my personal safety, and that they could not respond for any violence, which must be said to originate in my own unaccommodating disposition; to which I replied that the idea of being assassinated by the hand of a ruffian in his country was much more tolerable than that of being hung in my own. Thus conveying the idea that it would be treason in me to give passports to furnish provisions to Tripoli—it was so received. After I left the palace the subject was continued between the agent and the Tripoline Minister, at which my friend mentioned in the preceding letter was present, when it was proposed whether it would be prudent to offer me a pecuniary consideration to relax the severity of the position I had taken; but it was concluded that such an overture would be rather likely to produce resentment than accommodation, and the motion was dropped. It is nevertheless a proof of the entire submission, on the part of this Regency, to the measure of the blockade, and of the distressing effect it must have on Tripoli if rigidly inforced. I am extremely solicitious to get this information to you, and except an occasion offers within a few days, shall certainly send, at all risks, a polacca of my own in the hope of finding and delivering to you this letter. If this step of mine, which I am sensible is not very regular, obtains your approbation and support, it will be apt to produce immediate overtures on the part of Tripoli to negotiate. If nothing new turns up here to demand my vigilence, I shall leave our affairs with an upright Batavian and come to you in the Philadelphia. Tripoli has made no captures as late as the 2d of July, nor had any cruisers returned into port.

TUNIS, 11th August, 1801.

Sir:—On the 7th inst. the Danish Commodore Koeford arrived with two frigates, and a transport laden with regalia for this Bey. He proceeds to Tripoli, and takes copies of the dispatches here with inclosed; but as he goes thither to negotiate I doubt whether policy will dictate a desire to see you until after he shall have tried the success of his own measures. The Bashaw of Tripoli must reduce the number of his enemies, and it is natural to suppose the Dane will profit of the circumstance to push the project of a peace of his own nation, rather than assist that of a stranger. Under the influence of these impressions I am resolved to dispatch a polacca, a fast sailor and under the guarantee of this Bey's passport with American colors, expressly to deliver this packet. The polacca is now subject to your orders. I have heard nothing of the Philadelphia. I have the honor to be, sir, with perfect esteem,

Your most obedient servant,

WILLIAM EATON.

Rich'd Dale, Esq.

N. B. The polacca sailed at 3 a. m. the 12th of August.

TUNIS, 19th August, 1801.

Hon James Madison, Secretary of State.

Sir:—By letter from our charge-des-affairs at Tripoli of the 27th ult., we are informed that Commodore Dale appeared before Tripoli the 26th; that the Bashaw proposed a truce, but that his proposition was rejected.

By the Danish Commodore I learn that the Ragusa brig, Ben Vento, Capt. Gio. Jercovich, which I dispatched to the United States on the 20th of April last, was in Malta late in June. He has forfeited his freight, and if ever he arrives in America it must be optional with the Government to take advantage of his forfeiture or not. I hope this information

may arrive in season to forestay the imposition that Ragusa will contrive in order to secure his freight. It appears that he was discharging from his vessel, by a kind of retail, sundry articles of merchandise which he must have taken at Mahon, where he has also entered and lay ten days. At Malaga he did not discover himself to the American consul, a sufficient circumstance of itself to justify a suspicion of secret fraudulent intentions on his part. It appears from the private journal of the captain of one of the Danish frigates, that he purchased tobacco of Jercovich on the 6th of June. I inclosed the certification of the discharge of the Grand Turk's cargo. I have the honor to be with perfect respect,

Your obedient servant,

WILLIAM EATON.

P. S. August 20th, 1801. Persuaded that it is my duty to submit all my transactions for the inspection of Government, I herewith forward copies of my communications to Com. Dale. They carry in their text all the apology I can offer for the presumption. In an Italian gazette of the 8th inst., I saw the publication of exhibit A. The measure has taken full effect at Tunis, and if the steps I have taken to advise the Commodore succeed, must have all the success it promises in respect to our operations in Tripoli. It is hoped and believed that a punctilio will not be permitted to obstruct its operation. Operate as it will it can effect no injury but to an individual.

I certify, that the ship Grand Turk, Capt. Langton, laden with stores on the account of the United States for the Bey of Tunis, arrived at Porto Farinas on the 18th of July, ultimo, and completed the discharge of her cargo agreeable to charter party, on the 8th instant.

WILLIAM EATON,

Agent and Consul of the United States of America for the City and Kingdom of Tunis.

Extract of a letter from the American Consul at Tunis, to Mr. O'Brien at Algiers, dated Sept. 15th, 1801.

With regard to the provisions necessary to prosecute the war next summer, I have little to offer. Government has suitable information before them, and I make no doubt will adopt suitable measures effectually to chastise the madman of Tripoli. Having begun to coerce him it would be fatal to our affairs in Barbary to change this position, or to relax our tone with him. I am under no apprehension that Algiers will assume a hostile attitude against us, so long as they see vigorous operations going on against Tripoli, though I confess I should wish this result, because it would most certainly end in relieving us from a burdensome and dishonorable tribute, but their economy is not of war but plunder, and they seek this where there is the least danger. While we are at war with Tripoli, it is by no means probable our merchants will hazard themselves in this sea without protection or defense. It is probable this idea will strike the Algerine Jews, and through them work its way to the brain of the Patron Grand, as also the risk of losing an annuity by a war; and this, I believe, is a guarantee of our peace with said Regency, at least, until a peace with Tripoli should leave our commerce in the Mediterranean more unguarded. If these principles be true, and the conclusions be just, the cordon of frigates you would station from Gibraltar to Mahon will not be necessary; or if necessary, it will be equally so to extend it to Saragossa, where it will form a junction with the rendevous before Tripoli, a very expensive and very useless provision. One or two frigates cruising in this sea, and some small dispatch vessels, seems to me necessary and useful; but the great object is to blockade and bombard Tripoli with such effect as to blot the name from the list of nations. Three frigates and two bomb retches before the town are sufficient—some marines would be also requisite—you think six thousand. I will volunteer in the

expedition with one-third the number, conditioned that they shall be active young Americans under some discipline.

WILLIAM EATON.

Letter to Samuel Lyman, Esq., from Wm. Eaton, Esq.

TUNIS, 12th Oct., 1801.

Sir:—It grates me mortally to see a lazy Turk reclining at his ease upon an embroidered sofa, with one Christian slave to hold his pipe, another to hand his coffee, and a third to fan away the flies; and when I reflect that the sweat of my countrymen contribute to procure him this ease; it is still more grating to perceive that the Turk believes he has the right to demand this contribution, and that we, like Italians, have not the fortitude to resist it. At an early period of my agency here, the opinion was strongly impressed on my mind, that these Barbary pirates looked towards America as the dernier resource of plunder and tribute, and that they would essay to compel our submission to the imposition; an opinion naturally resulting from the resistance their former victims will oppose to them under new masters, and their incorrigible habitude to piracy, I have never ceased, and with great freedom believing, it resulting from the duties of my office, to communicate my apprehensions to Government on the subject, and also to my particular friends; but I did not apprehend that they would come forward at so early a period to try the experiment on us; nor did I suppose that Tripoli would be placed on the forlorn hope of the experiment when tried. But the Jews at Algiers, knowing Tripoli poor and desperate, its Bashaw a madman, and its chief admiral a drunkard, found no great difficulty to intrigue them into this position, and Tripoli declared war against the United States. It is indeed a mortifying consideration that the freedom of our commerce, the freedom of our nation, and the personal liberty of our fellow citizens should be put at issue on the pretensions of so

despicable a horde of sea robbers. But so it happens; and the only alternative remains to the United States either to buy off the mischief at the Bashaw's price, or chastise the Regency into terms more compatible with our feelings and abilities. Of the former resort, what will be the result? Unlimited tribute, constant harrassing of our commerce, frequent enslaving of our citizens, eternal bickerings and perpetual expensive negotiations without ever obtaining a permanent peace, together with a fixed dread of these calamities. Are these the conditions on which the Government of the United States will accommodate a quarrel with Tripoli, in which the latter is wholly the aggressor? Shall America who, when in an infant state, destitute of all apparatus of war, without discipline and without funds, dared to resist the whole force of the lion's den of Great Britain to establish her freedom, now that she has acquired manhood, resources and experience, bring her humiliation to the basest dog kennel of Barbary, and subscribe to voluntary chains? Shall the nation, who but a few days ago, launched her vengeance on the deep to chastise the outrages of one of the warlike and most enterprising nations of the earth, and sheath her sword and beg a precarious peace of the dregs of men? And shall this debasement form a paragraph in the history of the present age? Persuaded, I am, there is not a father in America who would not blush at the thought that posterity should read this apostacy of the day in which he lives; nor a son capable of bearing arms, who would not rather bleed on the sand plains of Libya, than reflect that he has been an idle spectator of so degrading a scene. Peace, I know, is the best policy of our country, but is no consideration due to the conditions of peace? Or shall we hold this boon as tenants at will, at the mercy of a Jew house at Algiers? What kind of sensations would it excite in Washington to see a Bashaw Jew mount his horse from the neck of a representative in congress? If we can but imagine the scene changed from Algiers to that capital, we

shall at once see this arrogance and prostration acted in real life. Let a foreigner ask why it is so. A Quaker will answer, "It is a counting house policy of that branch of the national legislature who hold the purse strings of the nation." Those Jews, our brothers at Algiers, boast that they have gained $100,000 by the American peace. That harvest is past, and they are sowing the seeds for a new one at Tripoli, which they will reap at Algiers except our thunder blasts it. The idea of this contribution to those outlaws from God's confidence, would be more tolerable if it did not involve slavery, chains, the bastinado, death, and national ignorance. My colleague at Algiers seems to think that these trifling gratuities are due to those Jews for their influence. What influence? That of stimulating those barbarians to cut our throats? Undoubtedly some acknowledgments are due to so friendly an intervention. But their influence, and its instruments, must have checked an occasion more favorable than the present, never did and probably never will offer to do it. Tripoli with great facility may be laid in ruins, and from her fate a lesson of caution impressed on the other Regencies. This mode of treatment is our only guarantee of a permanent peace, which the revenue of our antion is not able to maintain if merely on donations, for we have not only the avarice of Barbary, but the commercial policy of all Europe to combat. The Europeans are jealous of our growing commerce in the Mediterranean, as elsewhere; but we are at peace with all Europe, how then can they oppose obstacles to commercial enterprises? By using the Barbary Regencies as instruments which they can use against us without detection and without responsibility, as they have done against each other for many hundred years past. Has any thing changed in the commercial policy of France, which should make the existence of Algiers less necessary now that in the reign of Lewis XIVth. Has England today less reason to be concerned to impede American bottoms carrying merchandise to the marts in this

sea, than she had in 1660; or do we suppose because she has become more rich and more powerful, that she is more generous or less oppressive or, because she possesses Egypt, Malta the Morea, Mahon and Elba, that she will have less occasion for these instruments? We have no effectual means to oppose the influence of those two courts here, which they enforce as much by terror as bribes, but an impression of fear. But these are not our only rivals. Denmark and Sweden, in the score of contributions, are as formidable rivals as England and France, for as they calculate on nothing but payments for the maintenance of their peace here, they will go great lengths. We must do the same, and these Regencies, like apostate lawyers, will receive retaining fees on both sides, and turn their operations against those who fee least, so that we shall never know, on this score, when we shall have thrown enough into the scale to give us a preponderance. The same observation may be aplicable in regard to Spain, if it does not become a province of France. The islands of the Mediterranean, which have generally furnished them game, will, in the issue of this war, be shielded by stronger or more enterprising powers from the depredations of the corsairs. Prey they must have; American bottoms offer it, and will be everywhere accessible, for Portugal, like Holland, having become an appendage of France, will no longer bar their passage into the Atlantic. If then we oppose no effectual resistance to their outrages, what shall defend our commerce from being harrassed on all the western coast of Europe and Africa, the Islands in their vicinity, and even our own coast? What, in fact, shall defend our inhabitants of the defenseless sea board from being surprised in their dwellings, and dragged in chains to Barbary? This is not a mere dream of a timorus imagination; it is a very possible event if these people knew its feasibility; and do not let us be so credulous of the philanthropy of our Christian friends on this continent, as to suppose they will not put them up to it; especially

when we see an Englishman at the head of a Bashaw's navy, and a Frenchman a pilot in his fleet. I would not be thought illiberal nor censorious beyond measure, in remarking on the intrigue of other nations; here facts are obstinate, and it is from the observation of facts that I draw my couclusions The first outrages of Barbary were set on foot by the address of the British agent at Algiers, and the friendly intervention of Frenchmen in negotiating our peace has done us more mischief than the war itself. Were these pirates to be confined in the Mediterranean, I should suppose our best economy would be to abandon entirely our commerce in this sea; but that is not, nor will it be, the case except when we succeed in stamping a decided dread of our arms deeply on the souls of these licensed marauders, who shall, within ten years have on our coast, in our harbors, and like the plagues of Egypt, in the bed chambers of our wives and children on the sea board. It is not supposed that we are in danger of a descent upon our country; but a corsair may board and steal off half a dozen families here, and half a dozen there, with the same security as he could enter our ports and purchase a cargo of codfish or tobacco. The appearance of a squadron here, this summer, has been of infinite service, though it has not had all the success its first position seemed to promise. On Commodore Dale's arrival at Gibraltar, he found there the Tripoline Admiral with a frigate, brig of war, and he stationed a frigate, Capt. Samuel Barron, to cut off his retreat; but the renegade saved himself by abandoning his ships, and stealing off in a British squadron to Malta, whence he procured a passage to the coast, and thus escaped the vigilance of Capt Barron. But notwithstanding the project of securing the Admiral has failed, the object of his cruise have been totally disappointed. His ships are dismantled in Gibraltar, his crew chiefly deserted to Morocco, and himself, like a crusader, returned to Tripoli to give the history of his shame. Not a single American has fallen into slavery, thank heaven.

Besides these services, a small schooner commanded by Lieutenant Sterritt, in an encounter with a polacca of superior force, has given the Tripolines a flattering sample of the laurels they may catch in a war with Americans. This account is undoubtedly before the public. I do not know the present position of our squadron. It has, some days since, left this coast for Gibraltar, and when and whether it will return, depends on instructions which will be received from the President. Not much can be done here in the winter season; it would be well, however, that one or two frigates should cruise in the vicinity until the spring expedition be ready, in order to prevent the corsairs slipping out and doing us mischief. It is hoped the operations of next summer will be more vigorous and decisive; but as there is no great probability that the enemy will venture to sea, so long as our ships of war are about him, to prevent the excuse of prolonging the war, Tripoli should be bombarded. This is a very practical measure. Commodore Dale thinks that four frigates and three bomb retches are an ample force to do it effectually. He also supposes a descent on the coast at the same time would have good effect. I am of the same opinion, and am so confident of its practicability that I will volunteer in the enterprise, in any character consistent with my former military rank and my present station, with two thousand five hundred active light troops. Perhaps it is my duty, and if so, it will not be considered vanity to say that in case our affairs continued tranquil in Tunis, of which there is a moral certainty, I would be more serviceable to my country at Tripoli than here, because I know the tactics of the Barbary and Turkish land forces, their mode of attack and manner of fighting, and for this reason should probably have the more influence in assisting the maneuvres of an assault. If such an enterprise should be resolved upon, an adjutant and inspector-general to the troops would be necessary. I should be willing to take the responsibility of that office upon myself during the war, after which it is my

desire, if it please the preserver of men, to return to my family, whose union with me for almost ten years has operated a total privation of domestic felicity; and I can not but flatter myself that in whatever the President may think proper to direct my service, during the critical state of our affairs in the Mediterranean, when these difficulties shall have subsided, I may be allowed that indulgence. It is now thirteen months since I have heard from my family, if absence from them be painful, deprivation of intelligence from them renders it more peculiarly so. It would be extremely gratifying to me to be informed of the general sentiments of the United States in regard to pushing the war with Tripoli; and also, to know that I am honored with the concurrence of your opinion with regard to the observations here submitted on the subject. The last advice received from Tripoli states that no cruisers were out. It is devoutly to be hoped that no captures of our merchantmen will be made before the reappearance of our squadron, or a detachment from it. I have the honor to be, sir, with great respect,

Your obedient servant,

WILLIAM EATON.

His Swedish Majesty's Chancery Office.

Sir:—By a letter lately received from Commodore Tournquist, commander of the Thetis frigate, we have the honor to inform you that the said Commodore has received orders from his Swedish Majesty, our most gracious Sovereign, to act in concert with the American squadron against Tripoli, and that to effect this purpose with more efficacy, three Swedish frigates and a cutter brig have, for some time ago, left Sweden and are daily expected in the Mediterranean to join the Commodore, and to act in combination with the American squadron against our common enemy, the Bashaw of Tripoli, or any other Barbarian that shall

in any manner attempt to annoy our flag and commerce in the Mediterranean sea. The said Commodore will also, in consequence of above mentioned orders, take American ships under his convoy. I have the honor to be, sir,

Your most obedient servant,

N. FRUMERIE.

To William Eaton, Esq., Consul-General and Agent of United States of America, to City and Kingdom of Tunis.

TUNIS, Oct. 19th, 1801.

Hon. James Madison, Secretary of State.

The Tunisians have broken the truce with Portugal, and three days ago six corsairs mounting in all 126 guns, carrying 1,600 men, sailed for that coast. This desperate measure adds proof to the statements often presented, that these Regencies are in despair of game. Algiers has not sent a cruiser to sea this season. Tunis, till this moment, has lain on her oars projecting pretext to break with somebody. Had not our squadron appeared, it is most probable this expedition would have run upon us, as it may be presumed to have been the intention of this Bey, from the tenor of his treatment early in the spring; extraordinary exaltations generally being a precusor to outrage. We shall ultimately have the whole of these Regencies upon our hands, except we leave Tripoli an awful monument of the danger of provoking our vengeance. Their present pacific posture is only a suspense of operations until they shall see the issue of this suit. We have no effectual remedy against this piracy fever but balls and bayonets, gold and silver being only a sort of palliative. England and France cover the coasts and islands of the Mediterranean, but will offer no succor to our commerce here. In a letter to the Hon. Samuel Lyman, which, for various reasons, I take the liberty to pass open through the Department of State, I have stated my apprehensions

on this subject at some length. If Government resolves to push war to final issue next summer, an idea suggests itself that it would be best to keep the ships now here continued on this service; having walked the ground over they are better prepared for the race. Any prolongation of the war might operate essential prejudices to United States, for if by tardy operations we give time to the other Regencies to collect their understanding, we risk to having them as enemies in a common sense with Tripoli. A *coupe de grace* to the latter would be a death stroke to the projects of the others. The copy of an official communication from the Swedish consulate of the inclosure, has been received since I wrote to Mr. Lyman. Extract of a letter to Mr. O'Brien (inclosure B.) is formed to show to Government how much we differ in opinion on the subject of the force necessary to terminate the war. He will have a cordon of frigates from Gibraltar to Mahon. They would be equally necessary from Gibraltar to America. In all his opinions on the provisions for and consequences of the war, he seems to betray ignorance and design. Before I knew that he expected a successor, I could resolve all his arguments on the subject into a fear he entertained that a rupture would obstruct the operations of his commerce with the Jew house. I can no other way account, at present, for the obstacles he would raise to the prosecution of the war, but by the desire he feels of being consistent with himself. I hope his successor will be an American. I do not hesitate to allege that the most essential communications of Mr. O'Brien, relative to Barbary in general, are gross misrepresentations, calculated to bewilder and deceive rather than to instruct, and it is not uncharitable to believe that these misreprestntations are rather the effect of speculative views than ignorance. Nothing could have been more erroneous and absurd than the insinuation that the Jews in Algiers had control in Tunis, and as it respects foreign intercourse, the same remark applies to the Dey himself. The Regencies, in their opera-

tions abroad, are independent of and disconnected with each other as are the different states of Europe. If this assertion required evidence I will produce the Dey's patron grand, which is our guarantee of our peace with Tripoli. I have the honor, with perfect respect,

Your most obedient servant,

WILLIAM EATON.

TUNIS, Nov. 17, 1801.

Hon. James Madison, Secretary of State.

Sir:—Since my letter of 19th ult. nothing interesting has occurred here. The Philadelphia left the 4th ult. for Gibraltar, which is the last notice we have had of any of our squadron. The George Washington, with the Peace and Plenty, arrived at Algiers 5th ult. They have been some days expected here, but the winds have been contrary, and are still so. Copy of letter (inclosure A) from Mr. Nissen merits, it seems to me, some consideration. The manner in which the King of Denmark has been pleased to notice my services last summer (inclosure B) placed me in a somewhat embarrassed situation. I do not know, all things considered, whether the token of satisfaction his Majesty tenders me, comes within the interest of the construction of the Constitution. I submit the question to Government, and in the mean time have answered the board. I have the honor to remain, sir, with great respect,

Your most obedient servant,

WILLIAM EATON.

TRIPOLI, Nov. 5, 1801.

Sir:—The 3rd inst. I had the honor to receive your favor of the 13th ult., for the contents whereof please to accept,

sir, my thanks. By my last, of the 27th ult., I took the liberty to communicate that Mr. B. McDonogh, in company with Leon Farfara, had presented himself in the Danish consulate to demand: If, during the time I had been charged with the affairs of the United States of America at Tripoli, I had any reason to lodge complaints against him as having acted contrary to the interests of said United States. I likewise took the liberty to send you a copy of a certificate, as I thought it incumbent on me to give it, not having any positive proof to charge with such a crime; besides nothing material being transacted, he could have objected at nothing. The names of those friends that may have warned me, I think it my duty not to reveal, and neither do I believe it would to be to the interest of the United States to do so. I can communicate to you, sir, confidentially, but I can not demand that our friends shall expose themselves to prove the foundation of their warning. In respect to your demand, sir, whether the Bashaw of Tripoli still holds his pretentions against the United States, and whether any prospect offers for proposing to negotiate with him, I herewith have the honor to answer that Commodore Dale has demanded, several times, and lastly through me the 1st September, that the Bashaw should state his pretentions, which were to be sent to the President of the United States, and that their contents would determine him, Commodore Dale, whether to enter into a negotiation for a truce or not. The Bashaw promised to state his pretentions, but Commodore Dale not appearing more, and no further negotiation having taken palce, the business stands so. There is no doubt that the Bashaw, very willingly, would enter into a negotiation, but he is not glad to be obliged to state his demands as required. The Bashaw began the war without proper grounds and he can alledge no acceptable reason,—of course his demands can have no foundation. He has no advantage by the war; he has no prospective of any by the continuation thereof; consequently

he is desirous to end it; so much the more as he wishes to have free hands with the Swedes. None of the American frigates have been seen off Tripoli since September. One of the cruisers that went out in the beginning of October has returned with a Greek vessel, whose cargo of provisions will be a prize. Pray, sir, be so kind as to communicate with Mr. Cathcart the letters which I, from time to time, have the honor to address to you, there being frequently occasions from Tunis to Leghorn, and it seems that the letters sent by way of Malta either don't arrive or at least remain a considerable time under way. I have the honor, sir, to be with great respect and consideration,

Your most humble obedient servant,

N. NISSEN.

COPPENHAGEN, July 17, 1801.

Sir:—His Majesty, the King, having been informed of your kind proceedings towards his subjects who, last year, had the misfortune of being made slaves by the Tunisians; as also of the service which you have rendered the owners of six of the captured ships by returning to purchase them at the instance of the masters, and restoring them since to the said owners, though upon a somewhat precarious security of getting reimbursed your expenses, and of the friendly assistance, mutual esteem and confidence; and we must particularly request for him that you, sir, might be pleased to give him the advice and the directions which a newly arrived stranger always, and especially in the country where you live, stands so much in need of. We are with particular esteem, sir, your very obedient servants, the members of the Board of the Affairs relating to the States in the Coast of Barbary.

E. SCHIMELMAN STIEN BILLE.

To William Eaton, Esq., Consul of the United States of America at Tunis.

American House at Tunis, Nov. 17, 1801.

Gentlemen:—The expression by which his Danish Majesty has been most graciously pleased to signify his approbation of my conduct, during the short period I acted as his medium of communication with this Regency, and which was, last evening, put into my hands by his consul, Capt. Holck, does me distinguished honor, and impresses at the same time a deep sense of obligation; but as an article of the Constitution of the United States ordains that "No person holding an office of profit or trust under them, shall without the consent of Congress, accept of any present, emolument of office or title of any kind whatever, from any King, Prince, or foreign State," it is believed his Danish Majesty will be graciously pleased to allow me to submit for the decision of that body, whether I may be permitted to hold this honorable testimonial of his satisfaction. If in exercising the duties of a Christian and a man, I may have been serviceable to some of his Danish Majesty's subjects, who had unfortunately fallen into slavery here, the simplest evidence of his contentment would have been an ample gratification. I certainly acted with no other view of recompense. I feel myself bound, not less by the ties of symathy and gartitude, than by a consideration of the happy intelligence which subsists between the two governments, to tender Consul Holck, as well as every individual of the Danish nation, my best offices whenever they may be useful. The United States, at this moment, receive essential services from his Danish Majesty's Consul, Mr. Nissen, at Tripoli. I shall transmit a copy of the letter I have had the honor to receive from you, to the Government of the United States, and I make no doubt that they will reciprocate the benevolent orders you have given your consuls in the coast of Barbary.

Accept, gentlemen, I pray you, my cordial congratulations on the happy issue of Commodore Koeford's negotia-

tions in these Regencies. And give the honor of being with perfect consideration, your most

Obedient and humble servant,

WILLIAM EATON.

To the Honorable Members of the Board relating to the States on the Barbary Coast, Copenhagen.

TUNIS, 18 March, 1802.

Rufus King, Esq.

Sir:—The atagan by Mr. Eaton, the cloths by Capt. Dunn and the jewels by Mr. Hargreaves, have arrived safely according to invoice, and are highly acceptable to this Bey. I have not delivered the large saber. The Bey made no inquiries about it; this may be an omission, but if not, I shall save it by passing the atagan in its stead. It will be a good article for the Sublime Porte in case of a negotiation. I arrived here from Leghorn, in 12 days, on the 12th inst. Nothing has occurred in my absence worthy note. I have the honor, etc.,

WILLIAM EATON.

TUNIS, March 18, 1802.

Hon. Secretary of State.

Sir:—In addition to what I write Mr. King, copy herewith, I have only to add here that on arriving at Tunis I found Siddi Mahomet Bashaw yielding to his brother's instances, and on the point of departing for Derne, province of Tripoli, the government of which is promised him, for which purpose he begged my passport. I not only refused it but told him very candidly that if he departed we must consider him in the light of an enemy, and that instead of my influence to assist his passage to the Kingdom of

Tripoli, I should give it to have him and his retinue carried prisoners of war to America; but if he would adhere to his former arrangements, I did not doubt that before the expiration of four months he might be offered to his people by an American squadron. I told him the sole object of his brother was to cut his throat. He is sufficiently alarmed and too much distressed, this Bey having refused him any further supplies of provisions (I don't like this symptom). He proposes going to Malta and waiting the issue there. I will only consent to his going to Leghorn or Sardinia; if he departs on other terms I shall send an armed ship after him, and if possible, carry him and his retinue to some Italian port. Contrary winds prevented my touching at Naples from Leghorn. It is a misfortune, but affairs demanded me here. Capt. McNeil touched here the 29 of January, since which we have had no advice of him. I have the honor to be, etc.,

WILLIAM EATON.

P. S. March 26th. The Bashaw of Tripoli, the exile, has manifested an unequivocal disposition to come into my plans heretofore detailed; he is assured of a revolution in his favor if he can be offered to his subjects with a sufficient show of force; but he is surrounded by Turks and Arabs, subjects of his brother, sent him as protectors in so much that he can not act; hence my arrangements, copies herewith submitted; if they succeed it will be productive of incalculable advantage. If they fail, I am conscious of having exposed myself to the imputation of at least too much zeal.

WILLIAM EATON.

TUNIS, Mar. 24, 1802.

Capt. Daniel McNiel, Commander of U. S. Ship Boston.

Sir:—I dispatch the ship Gloria, Capt. Joseph Bounds, to you with notice that a ship under Russian colors called, and

is now about to depart from this port for Derne on the coast of Tripoli, with the view of landing at that place a brother of the present Bashaw of Tripoli, with his suit consisting of forty Tripoline subjects. This Prince is the rightful Sovereign of Tripoli, and was expelled his throne about ten years ago by the present reigning Bashaw. I have long since been in consultation with him, in projects to get him safely on board our squadron, that we may use him as an instrument of pacification at Tripoli, by offering him to his proper subjects, who desire his restoration before their own port, with the appearance of sufficient force to compel the measure. If this object can be effected no doubt it would bring about a revolution in Tripoli, and the assassination of the usurper, and save the United States the loss of many lives and much expense, an object well worth extraordinary exertions. I refer you to Mr. Wadsworth, of your ship, for particulars on this subject. He knows all that has been transacted hitherto, and is very capable of advising to future measures relating to this project. The necessity of having about me a vessel of force to enable me to communicate with our Commander in this sea, especially at this moment, and particularly as our frigates seldom touch here, has compelled me to put the ship Gloria into Government service, and to continue her so at least until the arrival of our squadron; she is therefore now subject to your orders. I desire you will give her your warrant and needful supplies. I have the honor to be, sir, etc.,

WILLIAM EATON.

TUNIS, 24th March, 1802.

Capt. Joseph Bounds, Commanding Ship Gloria.

Sir:—You will, without delay, sail for Malta, and deliver the letter herein inclosed to Capt. Daniel McNiel, of the Boston frigate. At Malta you will augment the number of

your equipage to fifty men, engaging them for a term not exceeding six months, and if you do not find Capt. McNiel at Malta, you will proceed off Tripoli and search for him until you find him, and receive from him your future destination. If you shall have occasion for supplies of cash or provisions, you will receive them of the captains or other commanders of our navy, or any of the American agents in the ports of the Mediterranean; and as I have put the ship Gloria into the public service of the United States, this letter of instruction will be a sufficient warrant to them for furnishing you with such provisions on account of the United States. But you will be careful to keep exact accounts of all supplies you may thus receive, in order that I may credit the United States therefor. If after having augmented your equipage as above directed, and in case of not falling in with the ship bound to Derne carrying the Bashaw of Tripoli's brother, Siddi Mahomet Bashaw, and his suite of about forty Tripoline subjects, you will visit said ship and take out of her said Bashaw and suit and deliver them over to the first American ship of war you may meet, or proceed with him and suit to Leghorn and deliver him, and them, to James Leander Cathcart, Esq., our Consul for Tripoli.

You will, on all occasions, keep me informed of your circumstances and situation. I am, sir, with much esteem,

Your obedient servant,

WILLIAM EATON.

On board the Danish Frigate Triton, off Cape Carthage, March 28, 1802.

James Leander Cathcart.

Sir:—I have found means to secure Siddi Mahomet by engaging the Sahibtappa in the measure, and seizing on the fears of the Bashaw. If it succeeds, Siddi Jusef Bashaw will pay the fiddler, Siddi Jusef Sahibtappa and the United

States will save a million. If it fails there will be nothing gained nor saved on either side. If we are successful, I have promised to give the Sahibtappa $10,000 and my dragoman one. If otherwise none to either. I have been on fatigue since 4 o'clock this morning, and have not time to break the seals of my communications by Doctor Turner. I have only time to add that the regalia given by the Spaniards and Danes are both rejected and returned, in consequence of the superior quality of the American.

Adieu, and think me busy,

WILLIAM EATON.

Thomas Jefferson, President of the United States of America to the Most Illustrious and Most Magnificent Prince, the Bey of Tunis, the abode of happiness.

Illustrious Friend:—Mr. Eaton, who has resided at Tunis for sometime past in the character of our consul, having requested leave to return home to visit his family, and to attend to his affairs, I have yielded to his request and appointed Mr. James Leander Cathcart to fill the vacancy which will be left.

Mr. Cathcart, who professes such good qualities as I hope will recommend him to your notice and esteem, is charged to testify to you the continuance of our friendship and to give you the proofs of it, which are usual on such occasions. In return I pray you to treat him with kindness and confidence; placing entire reliance on what he shall say to you on our behalf, especially when he shall repeat the assurances of our good will towards you.

Written at the City of Washington, the twenty-second day of April, 1803.

By the President, THOS. JEFFERSON.

JAMES MADISON, Secretary of State.

Extract from the New York Mercantile Advertiser of May 11, 1803.

"In the ship Perseverance which arrived at Boston on Thursday from Leghorn and Gibraltar, William Eaton, Esq., our consul for the City and Kingdom of Tunis came passenger, and immediately proceeded to the seat of Government. As late as the 1st of April, Malta was not evacuated by the English, nor any apparent movement to that effect. It is said that transports had gone to bring off the British garrison from Alexandria, but it is thought to provision them. In consequence of the late mutiny at Gibraltar, the Duke of Kent was about to return to England, and the garrison to be relieved. The French government has finally adjusted all misunderstandings with the Regency of Algiers, by a general accession to the Dey's terms. The Bey of Tunis requires, and is resolved to have, a demonstration of the real friendship of the President of the United States, and a good frigate of 36 guns, and sundry articles of smaller consideration which he has signified to the Government. He asserts of free intercourse with Tripoli in contempt of an actual blockade, and declares his determination to hold the United States amenable for all infractions of this assured right. This chief is endeavoring to negotiate a peace with Portugal, with a view of giving his corsairs a greater range by passing them into the Atlantic."

NOTE.—William Eaton, Esq., was born in Woodstock, Connecticut, Feb. 23rd, 1764. After serving in the army at an early age, he prepared himself for entrance in Dartmouth college. In 1792 he received a captain's commission in the army, and in 1797 was appointed consul for the Kingdom of Tunis. He engaged in the war with Tripoli, hoping to reinstate Hamet Bashaw on the throne, which had been usurped by his brother, with a force of 400 men of different nations. Eaton crossed from Alexandria to Derne overcoming serious obstacles. Derne was taken, the Tripolitan

army repulsed; but in the midst of triumph Eaton learned that peace had been concluded between the United States and Tripoli. On his return to the United States he was received with great honor. Aaron Burr, in vain, endeavored to obtain his aid in his conspiracy, and on his trial Eaton testified fully against him. His death took place in 1811.

Note speaks of Mr. Eaton's early life and later services. He was a very interesting writer. See Cyclopedia of History by F. A. Durivage.

14 DAY USE

RETURN TO ➡ CIRCULATION DEPARTMENT
202 Main Library

LOAN PERIOD 1 **HOME USE**	2	3
4	5	6

ALL BOOKS MAY BE RECALLED AFTER 7 DAYS
1-month loans may be renewed by calling 642-3405
6-month loans may be recharged by bringing books to Circulation Desk
Renewals and recharges may be made 4 days prior to due date

DUE AS STAMPED BELOW

DEC 8 1977

REC. CIR. NOV 8 '77

APR 19 2000

FEB 18 2004

JUN 24 2004

FORM NO. DD 6, 40m 10'77 UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY
BERKELEY, CA 94720

LD 21A–50m-8,'61
(C1795s10)476B

General Library
University of California
Berkeley

YC 59438

U.C. BERKELEY LIBRARIES
C008208530

508968

E335
C3

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA LIBRARY